The German Tribune

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Bonn accepts new African challenge

DIE ZEIT

Bonn faces a new challenge: Africa. It is an unexpected challenge and unpredictable in its eventual significance.

Readiness to take one's share of international responsibility is usually an afterthought, a time-honoured cliche, in official declarations.

But this time the scene seems set for a more definite German role in international crisis management.

Bonn's participation in the 5 June Paris conference on aid for Zaire certainly sets a precedent. The other four countries were America, Britain, France and Belgium.

More, of course, was at stake than Zaire, beset though it may be by domestic crises and threats from abroad. The wider issue was Soviet and Cuban intervention in Africa as a whole.

The Zaire conference testifies to the inability of Western organisations to halt growing Soviet influence in Africa.

Nato cannot act because it is a defence organisation and the North Atlantic pact does not provide for intervention other than in member-countries.

The European Community is similarly ill-suited to contain crises in Africa. So the powers had no option but to improvise a plan of action.

Bonn was asked to attend the Zaire conference because the Federal Republic as an economic power and the second strongest Nato member has automatically, and without really trying, moved up in the Western hierarchy.

It has shared economic and monetary leadership automatically since being called to join six other leading industrial nations in periodic economic summits.

Now that Bonn has been asked to take part in international management of political crises, its foreign policy has assumed a new quality.

The first step was taken 20 years ago when a growing need was felt for political consultations between the more important Nato members outside the strict and time-wasting framework laid down in the North Atlantic pact.

It all began with the Group of Four who met in Bonn in response to the 1958 Berlin crisis. America, Britain, France and the Federal Republic met to discuss and reach decisions on Berlin and *Deutschlandpolitik*.

These informal meetings, be it of high-ranking civil servants or of Foreign Ministers, proved popular. Gradually, and more by accident than by design, the agenda was widened.

The Group of Four emerged as a convenient variation on the three-member directorate in charge of Western affairs for which General de Gaulle had pleaded in vain.

The troika envisaged by General de Gaulle excluded Bonn, of course, but was otherwise similarly intended to deal with a wider range of issues than more immediate Nato conderns.

On the eve of the recent Nato summit in Washington this Group of Four suddenly decided to hold talks on Zaire in Paris.

So far Bonn governments have steadfastly refused to become involved in international crisis arrangements. Bonn wanted nothing to do with attempts to Europeanise the Cyprus crisis in 1964, for instance.

A year later Bonn also refused to become involved in Vietnam. US Secretary of State Dean Rusk pleaded in vain; Bonn would not go further than equip a hospital ship to cater for non-combatants off Da Nang.

There is still no question of military assistance, except perhaps in the case of rescue bids. But Bonn, being vitally interested in the stability of indispensable commodity suppliers, is at last shouldering part of the international political burden hitherto left to its allies.

There is no question of Bonn going it alone, however. Any action will be taken in concert with its closest allies. So

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Loan for Syria

Syria's Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam (left) in conversation with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn during a three-day visit in which he negotiated a 100 million deutschemark loan for Syria from the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: dpa)

Paris summit heralds joint Zaire approach

Representatives of five Western industrial countries — America, Britain, France, Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany — have met in Paris to discuss recent developments in Africa, in paticular in Zaire.

The vague and non-committal official communiqué suggests that they have not agreed to anything definite. And even if joint action were in the offing, a coordinated European policy on Africa would still remain a distant prospect.

Still, it is remarkable that three erstwhile colonial powers — Britain, France and Belgium — have conferred with America and Germany on the subject.

A joint approach and a common view of Soviet and Cuban activities in Africa cannot but be beneficial, especially as the five Nato countries who met in Paris are convinced that Western Europe's security depends on that of Africa as a whole.

None of the five stands to benefit from Zaire's copper belt in Shaba province being put out of action by ideology and intervention, which would be a severe blow to European economic interests.

So the United States and the four European countries have no option but to help Zaire, economically to begin with at least.

This is not to say that President Mobutu's regime will necessarily be stabilised. In Africa such conclusions do not follow naturally.

The five will likewise have no choice but to give Zaire military backing. But first it is up to the Africans to defend themselves, and not in individual rivalry but in joint coordination. The United States certainly has no objection.

The Soviet Union, Cuba and the GDR must be taught a lesson: that their assistance in military adventures in a continent already rent by tribal feuds is unwanted.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 June 1978)

MPs point to Basic Law on UN role

Münchner Merkur

The Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, does not permit the Bundeswehr to second units to UN peacekeeping forces, members of all three Bundestag parties said in New York.

SPD deputy Manfred Schulte, a member of the Bundestag foreign affairs committee, said all three parliamentary parties in Bonn were keen to promote UN aims and objectives.

This extended to purely logistical support for UN peacekeeping operations by the Federal Republic. But the Basic Law did not allow Bonn to second Bundeswehr troops, either armed or unarmed, to UN command.

According to a parliamentary delegation of foreign and defence policy committee members visiting New York, the Bonn government is currently considering the extent to which the Basic Law might permit Bundeswehr participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

A decision had not been reached, they said, but Christian Democrat Alois Mertes added that there was still no consensus in favour of Bundeswehr participation in these operations.

At the same time Bonn has submitted to the UN special General Assembly session on disarmament two proposals of a technical nature designed to underpin international attempts to bring about arms-limitation and disarmament.

dpa

(Münchner Merkur, 9 June 1978)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WEU outlines plans for 'alliance' with China

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

What the general assembly of the Western European Union has in mind over ties with China is little short of an alliance.

The Council of Ministers of the seven-member WEU is required to not only consider carefully the role China may play in European security.

It is also called upon to promote concerted action by Western Europe and China in limiting foreign intervention, especially in Africa and Asia.

The explanation for this surprising move cannot simply be that the WEU leads a shadowy existence from which it only emerges now and again — in 1963, for instance, when it advocated a multinational nuclear force.

The WEU, it will be recalled, was the organisation which bridged the gap between the failure of the European Defence Community proposal and the admission of Bonn to Nato.

Because of the obligation of all seven members (Britain and the original Common Market Six) to lend each other automatic support in an attack, not to mention other defence and arms control commitments, the WEU has retained its intermediary function.

The China policy recommendation is a shock even though Western Europe and China share interests — interests readily defined if only agreement were reached on the current situation in China and to China's plans and targets.

Still, the starting points are clear. China is determined to ensure its own security and to command respect for its national independence. Resistance to any attack is an essential of both Chinese and Western European policy.

China is, moreover, keen on good relations with Europe, especially in the economic sector, and the power China has come to represent is a major factor in world peace and security.

The WEU general assembly concludes that member-governments must be called on to step up trade with China, both bilaterally and within an EEC framework.

China, it says, must also be met halfway in industrial technology and consideration given to any bid to buy conventional arms and equipment with which to improve its defence potentiual.

The review of China's role in European security is linked to a demand for careful consideration of the Chinese government's views on dangers to world peace.

Since Peking feels the main danger emanates from Moscow, it is obvious that the proposal for concerted action in forestalling intervention by "any foreign power" in the domestic affairs of Third World countries is aimed implicitly at the Soviet Union and, no doubt, Cuba.

The background to the WEU assembly's recommendation is pencilled in by the comprehensive documentation submitted by Sir Frederick Bennett, the British Conservative MP.

Sir Federick's background report reviews China's ties with the Western powers, outlines China's role in the Far East, details Sino-Soviet ties and compares Soviet with Chinese military potential.

The report contains nothing new but is characterised by a benevolently balanced judgement of Chinese policy.

The impression is that Mao's China, notwithstanding the many post-war conflicts, has been motivated solely by concern for its own security, which it saw as increasingly threatened by Moscow from the early 50s.

Even before the thaw inaugurated by General de Gaulle in 1962, Peking's inscrutable attitude towards Western Europe was dominated, the report says, by anxiety lest the Soviet Union took over.

Not until the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution and its foreign policy repercussions, Sir Frederick notes, did China attach particular significance to closer ties with Western Europe.

"We may be sure that China takes an extremely benevolent view of the European Community, regarding it as a potential factor in resistance to the Soviet Union."

As a result China has shown *increasing interest in Nato and in all European* defence endeavours.

Western Europe cannot, of course, even conceive of a China policy that does not take transatlantic ties into account. China and the United States have never overcome a measure of mutual mistrust.

But their mutual mistrust of the Soviet Union has led to a rapprochement, since Washington and Peking are agreed that Moscow is "the only serious and aggressive potential adversary."

Inasmuch as the United States has been interested in consolidating China's role in world affairs, Washington has encouraged its European allies to develop military trade ties with China.

Talks on European arms supplies to China have been on for some time.

In parliamentary terms, reports such as this form part of resolutions and are not merely a basis for discussion. In mid-May the WEU assembly's general purposes committee made two amendments to the report's conclusions.

In both cases Sir Frederick evidently seems to have allowed his temperament to run away with him. He starts by assuming that China will need as long a peace as possible to consolidate its power to the point where attacks no longer constitute a serious worry.

Peking remains convinced that a Third World War is inevitable and will *occur as a result of rivalry between the* superpowers.

At the same time, however, the Chinese are worried that Washington and Moscow may try to postpone the conflict by dividing the world into spheres of influence.

Which is why Sir Frederick finds it by no means surprising that "China unconditionally and even enthusiastically supports the idea of a united Europe capable of defending itself against the Soviet Union even without American assistance."

But only at one point does Sir Frederick subscribe to a personal view, embracing wholeheartedly the Chinese opinion that in Soviet eyes detente is merely another word for appeasement.

Fried Wesemann

(Deutsche Zeitung, 2 June 1978)

Kohl call for European integration

Terrorism, human rights and European integration were among the topics at a two-day conference of the European Union of Christian Democrats in Berlin.

EUCD president Kai-Uwe von Hassel, who was re-elected in Berlin, spoke highly of his organisations's efforts on behalf of Spain and Portugal.

Both countries, and Greece, he said, were members of the European family of nations with constitutional governments.

Bonn CDU leader Helmut Kohl called on the conference to nominate only its best men for the European Parliament, direct elections to which are in June next year.

Herr Kohl said the elections were immensely important. Because of the division of Germany the Federal Republic needed an opening to Europe more than any other European country.

European integration, the CDU leader said, was the only chance of a future in peace and freedom.

On human rights, Herr von Hassel said Christian Democrats had agreed not to pillory the Soviet Union at Belgrade, but it had to be strongly pointed out that there had been human rights violations.

Monitoring of human rights could not be conducted on this side of the Iron Curtain only. Complete agreement on human rights was reached at the conference, Herr von Hassel said.

Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani advocated "operative coordination" between countries in combatting international terrorism. Terrorism, he said, could not be justified on any ideological grounds.

He saw no connection between terrorism and unemployment in Italy. Terrorists were simply criminals.

In the process of Eruopean integration not only economic and foreign policy but also legislation had to be coordinated, the Italian Foreign Minister concluded.

"Homogeneous legislation" was the only way in which terrorism could successfully be dealt with at an international level, thereby defending liberal basic principles.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 June 1978)

African challenge

Continued from page 1

Bonn ought not to run the risk of charges of itching for great power status.

"I am speaking on behalf of a country both unable and unwilling to pursue great power policies," Helmut Schmidt told the UN General Assembly at the end of May. "But my country is aware of its co-responsibility for peace."

"It would be unwise of Bonn to aspire to the same status and ease in international crisis management as the erstwhile world powers Britain and France.

But gone are the days when Bonn could claim to be an industrial giant but a political dwarf — an innocent in world affairs.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 9 June 1978)

Trawler arrests make Baltic talks urgent

Where there are less than 400 miles of water between two countries the 200-mile zone to which coastal countries now nearly all lay claim is purely notional.

The Baltic countries Sweden, the Soviet Union, Poland and the GDR have drawn a hypothetical median across the sea to divide their zones of economic interest.

Denmark, on the western shores of the Baltic, can at least send its fishing boats out round the island of Bornholm with impunity.

Fishermen from the Federal Republic of Germany are no longer entitled to fish at all in an area of the Baltic where German fishermen have cast their nets for centuries.

Irritation and emotion were inevitable. But the Poles, who have now twice arrested boats registered in this country's Baltic ports for fishing without permission, can at least claim that their moves are in keeping with Bonn's policy.

Bonn is no longer empowered to negotiate with Warsaw on behalf of its fishermen.

The federal government, unlike Whitehall, for instance, has been quick to hand over responsibility for external fishing policy to the EEC Commission in Brussels.

All that Bonn can do is to urge Brussels to start talking soon with the Baltic countries. But so far the Baltic fishermen have evidently appeared small fry viewed from Bonn.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 9 June 1978)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Maihofer's resignation: a private tragedy in public

Hannoversche Allgemeine

If Werner Maihofer's resignation as Bonn Minister of the Interior on June 5 is to be interpreted as an admission of failure, in what respect can the FDP Minister be said to have failed?

Many of his own friends and his political opponents will have a ready enough answer. They will say he was a bad Minister of the Interior. There are different answers to the question why he was a bad Minister.

The CDU-CSU Opposition says Maihofer was partly responsible for a number of blunders in the Schleyer kidnapping and murder. Maihofer himself gives these blunders as the reason for his resignation.

The CDU-CSU also claims that Maihofer did not treat the phenomenon of terrorism seriously enough, that he was too gentle when what was required was the iron fist.

In the FDP, his own party, and among Social Democrats, the accusation against Maihofer is the exact opposite: in the struggle against terrorists and enemies of the state, they say, he moved further and further away from liberal principles.

In a word, Maihofer could not please anyone as Interior Minister. The fact that as a former university lecturer he had little experience of dealing with the huge and complex ministerial bureaucracy hardly helped him.

He had obvious difficulty controlling this huge apparatus. In a number of cases he was obviously taken by surprise by news of the activities of his own officials, but he still shielded them. In this respect it is certainly true that Maihofer was not a good Minister.

But the reasons for Maihofer's failure go deeper. At the beginning of the 70s, Maihofer, a brilliant lawyer, was one of the great hopes of the FDP, more precisely of the left wing of the party. The programme decisions at FDP party conferences in Saarbrücken and Freiburg are unthinkable without him.

When the Social Democrats and the FDP formed the government coalition in Bonn, Maihofer spoke of an "historical alliance" of the two parties. His appointment as Minister of the Interior was a triumph for the left, in his party and in the SPD. At last a truly liberal Minister in charge of the traditionally most anti-liberal ministry of all, "the police ministry."

In the early days of his ministry, Maihofer lived up to expectations. But over the years the gap between him and his supporters widened. Starting last year there were frequent complaints that Maihofer had abandoned his liberal principles and was behaving just like a "Police Minister" with nothing in his head but "law and order."

This split first came to the attention of the public during the Traube case. His former supporters could not forgive Maihofer for shielding his officials who, without any legal basis, had ordered and carried out surveillance of the atomic physicist alleged to be a friend of terrorists.

The question is: was Maihofer really untrue to his liberal principles? Was he the boss in his ministry? Or did he fail because the ideas of a left-liberal simply cannot be reconciled with the position of Minister of the Interior responsible for public order.

We should not try to make the answer too simple. Certainly, it was highly unfortunate that Maihofer's period of office coincided with the phenomen of terrorism, which became a fundamental question for our state. If this had not been so, he would perhaps this be in office enjoying the support of his former admirers.

Maihofer is basically the victim of a deep conflict between a liberal attitude which is sometimes extreme and the challenge to the state by its fanatical opponents, in particular the terrorists.

He may have made certain mistakes. But given the mood of the public he could hardly, as Minister of the Interior, have acted in any other way. He had to impose certain limitations on freedom.

Maihofer's failure can be regarded primarily as a personal tragedy. As a party theoretician and as a practical politician he wanted only the best. But in the long run it proved impossible to reconcile theory and political action.

A true liberal would have resigned before the elections in Hamburg and Lower Saxony. The fact that he delayed this resignation for tactical party reasons is, sadly, another blot on his copybook.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 June 1978)

Point of departure: Chancellor Helmut Schmidt with President Walter Scheel after handing over the letter of appointment of new Minister of the Interior Gerhart Rudolf Baum (second from right), who has come into the Cabinet following the resignation of Werner Maihofer (right). (Photo: dpa)

Fall in pursuit of high ends

Werner Maihofer's nomination as Minister without Portfolio (*Sonderminister*) in 1972 and his appointment two years later as Minister of the Interior did not fit into the ordinary categories of the political professionals. The same applies to his resignation.

While Bonn was recovering from the shock of the elections in Hamburg and Lower Saxony, Maihofer announced his departure.

This resignation is not to be understood as a result of the blunders in the Schleyer case as revealed in the recently published report by a Bundestag committee under former Minister of the Interior Höcherl.

The report did not demand that heads should roll and the Bonn government indicated that it wanted to play for time.

Maihofer's reasons for resignation are not adequately explained by references to his disappointment that the government and his party had failed to defend him on occasion against unjustified attacks.

It is certainly, however, true to say that Maihofer, a thoroughly decent man, was unable to come to terms with the ifs and buts and all kinds of other things expected from him both in the government and in the party.

His theory of pure liberalism, summed up in the logically debatable phrase "In doubt for freedom," proved just as difficult to uphold as the FDP's claim to be the liberal party par excellence.

The tactic of remaining in power is a legitimate goal of every party. The FDP wanted to give the impression that in its case such pragmatic thinking did not apply, that it was a party pursuing higher ends.

Maihofer himself subscribed to this view. His close encounters with political reality in his ministry showed that this philosophy, if not entirely false, is desperately difficult to put into practice. This is the main reason why he is going, and not because the left in his party, his former friends, are disappointed in him and hostile.

In accordance with the unsentimental rules of political business, interest now centres on Maihofer's successor. The FDP faces the question whether or not their nominee should embody some of the ideals Maihofer represented at the beginning of his term of office.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 June 1978)

Höcherl report no reason for departure

Hermann Höcherl, the former Minister of the Interior who led the enquiry into the blunders of the Schleyer case, was fully aware of the problems in the area and his report carefully avoids naming those responsible.

Höcherl's reluctance to apportion blame cannot merely be explained by political and legal considerations. It was based on the realisation that these blunders were not the result of human error but of poor organisation. The real causes are serious structural defects in our police system.

The CSU politician mentioned a number of important causes: demarcation problems, inadequate registration and leadership structures, a lack of uniformity in information systems. He also made the general criticism that the correct conclusions had not been drawn from terrorist attacks.

This sober statement of fact certainly applies to all the bodies concerned: the Bonn government, the Länder and the conference of Ministers of the Interior, which did not exactly gain a reputation for clear and unmistakable proposals for cooperation between the Länder and Bonn.

There are a large number of people on several political levels who can be held responsible for the blunders and omissions in the fight against terrorism. The conclusions that some people drew from the Höcherl report that Minister of the Interior Maihofer should resign were unjustified.

Maihofer did not and does not have the authority to order manoeuvres. His only chance was to use his powers of persuasion to get the central government and the Länder to work together more closely.

During Maihofer's term of office, the successful system of target and observation investigation was developed, the Bundeskriminalamt (Federal CID) built up into a central office for the police. Maihofer made many of the proposals for tightening up police organisation, even though many of them were not put into practice.

One can accuse the Minister of inability to force his decisions through, of lack of political instinct or of helplessness. He bears no more responsibility for the failures and blunders in the fight against terrorism than others. The Höcherl report alone cannot have been the reason which led Maihofer to resign.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 June 1978)

Hermann Höcherl: a report that steered clear of handing out blame (Photo: Sven Simon)

■ POLITICS

FDP defeat brings time for soul-searching

The voters of Hamburg and Lower Saxony made the Free Democrats face the question of their chances of survival, and party chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his team will now have to find an answer.

The old FDP tag of being a party whose voters readily switch from one horse to another has been confirmed.

In both Hamburg and Lower Saxony these vacillating voters heaved the FDP out of parliament.

All other facts pale in the light of this. As expected, the Social Democrats won in Hamburg and the Christian Democrats in Lower Saxony.

They can now govern with absolute majorities — under Hans-Ulrich Klose in the city-state and under Ernst Albrecht in Lower Saxony. And both of them profited from being the party in power.

Herr Klose also had the advantage of Chancellor Schmidt's support — always a vote-getter in Hamburg.

The SPD in Lower Saxony and the CDU in Hamburg were unable to unseat their opponents.

And this brings us back to the landslide loser, the FDP.

What was it that so brutally dashed their hopes?

Granted, there were the "Greens" and the "Motleys" (environmentalists) which rode on a wave of emotion — much more so than they deserved in view of their one-sided platforms. But they also benefited from the electorate's disgruntlement with the established parties.

All this, however, fails to fully explain what happened to the Free Democrats. The two outsider parties could hardly have halved the voter strength of the FDP. The liberals' debacle, is, roughly speaking, due primarily to the diffuse and confusing picture presented by that party in the past two years.

In Bonn they are in a coalition with the Social Democrats, backing the "rightist" Helmut Schmidt. There they form his auxiliary force against the left dissidents of the SPD.

But they do not steer this course everywhere. Whenever the social-liberal coalition in Bonn seems to be endangered, they put up with things liberals should never stand for.

For the critical voter, they are a party that vacillates. Sometimes they are the protectors of liberal positions and sometimes the "rescuers" of tottering Ministers.

Things are not much different in the Länder. In Hamburg, under Helga Schu*chardt and Professor Dieter Biallas, they were a leftist state party whom Ham*burg's "rightist" SPD had to tolerate in a forced marriage.

In Lower Saxony, they allied themselves two years ago with Ernst Albrecht's CDU after an about-face.

The results were heavy losses in both states — particularly in Hamburg.

The FDP will now look at itself. Each party wing will lay claim to what Helga Schuchardt, using Genscher's words, described as the "great spiritual stream of liberalism" — which the party failed to get across.

The FPD will also fail to agree in its own ranks that liberalism is not an FDP privilege because the leftists in that party lump liberalism with near-socialism.

Disregarding all the ideological smoke, there remains the fact that, some ten years ago, the Free Democrats frightened off their middle-of-the-road liberal reservoir of voters. They were replaced by itinerant voters who now decided to trek away.

These unreliable leftists in terms of party politics joined the "Greens" and "Motleys" or went straight to the SPD, where they might have come from originally.

In Lower Saxony, those who might have tended towards the right centre decided to vote for the CDU.

In view of this confusion, there remains the question as to which coalition the FDP is now to offer its electorate in Hesse.

Now that in the Bundesrat the CDU and CSU have a free hand without the "good conduct" foisted on them by the Lower Saxony FDP, the liberals find it hard to lend support to "their" Chancellor.

How will the social-liberal coalition in Bonn be affected by the smaller partner, now so frustrated by the election results?

And, these are not all the questions the German voter was called upon to answer in the 4 June elections.

Hans Schäfer

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 June 1978)



Winner: Hans-Ulrich Klose (Photo: Sven Simon)



Winner: Ernst Albrecht (Photo: Sven Simon)

'Alternative' parties hit all sides

Handelsblatt

DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

The remarkable thing about the Lower Saxony and Hamburg elections was the change in the political party structure, says an analysis by the Institute for Applied Sociology (Infas).

In lower Saxony, the CDU achieved 48.7, the SPD 42.4, the FDP 4.2, the German Communist Party 0.3, and the environmentalists 3.9 per cent.

This makes for the following distribution of seats in the state assembly: CDU 83 and SPD 72.

In Hamburg, the SPD got 51.5, the CDU 37.6, the FDP 4.8, the German Communist Party one, the "Motleys" 3.5 and the environmentalists one per cent. Seats: SPD 69, CDU 51.

This could seemingly lead to the conclusion that the shift took place among the smaller parties and that the "Motleys" and the environmentalists were responsible for the liberals not getting into parliament.

But this is an illusion, says the Infas analysis. An exact study of the regional and sociological focal points of the environmentalists shows that in Hamburg and, to a lesser extent, in Lower Saxony these protest movements inflicted more or less equal losses on all parties.

But in Lower Saxony, the FDP took losses from the environmentalists — especially in districts where its *defeat* was particularly pronounced.

Although it is impossible to delineate geographically where the followers of the environmentalists are concentrated, it is established that they are a young people's movement.

dpa

(Handelsblatt, 6 June 1978)

Genscher the real loser in liberal collapse

Even after his slimming cure, Free Democrat leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher's shoulders are still broad enough to carry defeats.

On 5 June, the day after the FDP's election defeats in Lower Saxony and Hamburg, when party chairman Genscher confronted the TV cameras after a four-hour executive committee session, there was no mistaking the fact that — *despite all other interpretations* — he was the actual loser in the two elections.

The paradoxical thing about the FDP in the past few years is that in spite of Genscher's stature as a symbol of integration, it has with a few exceptions suffered only defeats.

The history of the Free Democrats in the past four years is a slow but continuous downward slide. This might not have been so conspicuous without the dramatic defeats of Lower Saxony and Hamburg.

After the success in Hanover a few years ago, when the FDP moved into the corridors of power, and its unexpectedly good results in the previous Hamburg election, the Hesse election was a shock for the party.

Then came the big relief in Bremen, followed by the disappointment of the 1976 Bundestag election. The FDP remained in the Bonn government but its position was tenuous.

Herr Genscher saw the writing on the wall, but there was nothing he could do about it. In the 1977 non-election year he went in search of new talent and tackled party organisation with the help of his bright young administrator Günter Verheugen. With the FDP's new star politician, Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff, as the spearhead, he embarked on custom-tailoring the liberal programme.

But nothing worked. The "Kiel Theses" were on paper, but the Free Democrats of Hamburg and Lower Saxony were left in the cold by the electorate.

The FDP's platform proved ineffectual in drawing voters, and the second pillar of Genscher's strategy, his so-called loosening-up policy, proved even less attractive.

The usually reliable liberal voters failed to understand the strategy of coalition with the CDU in Lower Saxony and the Saarland to create more balance in the Bundesrat while sticking to the SPD alliance elsewhere.

Now Herr Genscher faces the question whether a general loosening up has been set in train and whether a new political landscape is emerging with the CSU on one side, the "Green" environ-

Continued on page 5

Local election in Lower Saxony 1978 (in per cent)			
Party	Result	Local election 1974	Bundestag election 1976
SPD	42,2	43,1	45,7
CDU	48,7	48,8	45,7
FDP	4,2	7,0	7,9
Minority parties	4,9	1,1	0,7

Local election in Hamburg 1978 (in per cent)			
Party	Result	Local election 1974	Bundestag election 1976
SPD	51,5	44,9	52,6
CDU	37,6	40,6	35,8
FDP	4,8	10,9	10,2
Minority parties	6,1	3,6	1,4

Abbreviations: SPD, Social Democratic Party. CDU, Christian Democratic Union. FDP, Free Democratic Party

■ LOOKING BACK

Exhibition recalls hungry days of food rationing

Just a few weeks before the currency reform of June 20 1948, people in Germany were starving. Daily rations in the Western zones consisted of eight slices of bread, a meagre pat of butter, a miniscule piece of meat weighing 14 grams, one-and-a-quarter pieces of beetroot, one-and-a-half pieces of cheese, two potatoes and an eighth of a litre of skimmed milk.

Then, as soon as the currency reform took place, the shops were suddenly and miraculously full of goods.

An exhibition called *Die Stunde Null der Deutschen Mark* (Zero Hour for the German Mark) in the Penta Hotel in Munich opened on June 4.

It describes the plight of the German people just before the currency reform, tells how little there was to buy in he shops and what kind of rations the people had to get by on. The exhibition will be be seen in other German cities when it leaves Munich.

Just under half of the present population of the Federal Republic of Germany were born after 1948, which means that for then these times are history.

All those either were not living at that time or too young to realise what was going on can now, with the help of this exhibition, make up for gaps in their knowledge and imagine what it must have been like in those days. The exhibition contains many original documents.

The invitation card to the exhibition is itself a reminder of those hungry days — a facsimile of food ration card 76 for normal consumers, with the famous sections for bread, meat, sugar, cereals, and an eighth of a litre of fresh milk.

It is amazing what German housewives in those days managed to make with those meagre ingredients.

They made flour cream from a few drops of skimmed milk and a little flour. This tasted delicious on baked vegetables and potato cakes. And on days without meat they dished up carrot with potato strudel as dessert — all delicacies from the early post-war years which the hotel's chef has cooked to show younger visitors to the exhibition just what they missed. These dishes are merely a taste of nostalgia today. The days when you could get ten pounds of bread on the black market for ten cigarettes or 160 grams of coffee or fifteen real eggs for twenty cigarettes are long since past.

The fresh start began with the new currency which few people can remember these days: the green half mark notes, the blue one mark notes, the purple two mark notes, the brown five mark notes and the red 100 mark notes only exist in collections these days.

Then, those who had money went out and spent it on anything, even on cigarettes, on brands that are forgotten today: Collie in the red, Fox in the yellow and Zuban in the red packets.

Ration books receipts for the 40 marks which every citizen was given on the day of the currency reform, and the original manuscript of a book in which Ludwig Erhard, in 1944, a year before the end of the war anticipated post-war compensation for refugees.

These are all documents for a period which is history for the younger generation. The same applies to the table listing the meagre daily rations.

Wags reckoned that this could be the first item in the exhibition to be stolen, because there is an uncanny resemblance between it and the expensive diets of today.

Many a visitor with an affluent paunch cast greedy looks at the ration card on the exhibition while the opulent buffet for the opening of the exhibition was being set up in a side room.

The spread gave some visitors a slight twinge of disgust. On one table lay giant pig of pure butter crowned with a huge deutschemark made of butter. *R. Henkel*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 June 1978)



Reminder of grim times: a Munich exhibition harks back to post-war rationing

(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

Genscher is the real loser

Continued from page 4

mentalists on the other, the two big CDU and SPD parties in the middle and the FDP out on the periphery.

All this was still obscure during the 5 June session in Bonn. The FDP executive committee clearly met in a state of shock. The delegates in the conference room at the Thomas Dehler House in Bonn were in fact too paralysed even to open the windows, in spite of the heat.

The committee conferred and brooded over their defeat for four hours. On the noticeboard in a corridor was an old edition of "Liberal" the house organ, with the headline "Planning Fails to Reach the Citizen."

And, indeed, in almost the whole of Northern Germany the citizens decided to take leave of the liberals.

Though conjecture is rife, there can be no doubt that the party is now headed for its last battle.

The question in Bonn is: can it fight the battle under its present chairman?

The answer can only be: it can and it must. There is neither a replacement nor a competitor for Genscher.

Anyway, the problem has nothing to do with Genscher as a person, but he will have to make different use of his great leadership potential.

The will have to get tougher. Tactics aimed at taking into account suspected or actual trends within the party have proved inadequate.

If the FDP is to become a real party to which the electorate will stick come what may, the chairman will have to start from scratch and make all decisions himself.

Keeping an ear to the ground is of little use when events move fast, and the FDP realises this since the latest defeats, as borne out by Genscher's drawn face following the executive session.

No-one in Bonn has any reason to gloat over the liberals' defeat — not even the SPD, which at least had the satisfaction of being proved right by the Lower Saxony outcome in holding that it does not pay for the FDP to be in coalition with the CDU.

But the CDU, too, is perplexed because its victory and absolute majority in Lower Saxony made it clear that the winner was Ernst Albrecht and not Helmut Kohl or the CDU as a party.

The Lower Saxony election and its probable national effects on the FDP must have convinced Opposition Leader Helmut Kohl that he can hardly count on the FDP changing its coalition partner in Bonn.

The way things stand now, Herr Kohl, too, will need an absolute majority if he wants to become the next Chancellor.

But the FDP will also have to come to terms with the fact that it will no longer be wooed in Bonn. These days of an "illicit second marriage" are over.

All FDP statements on 5 June made it clear that the party realises that it stands at the foot of the mountain facing a stiff climb.

The question is: will it be able to regain its former position or is it faced with a tortuously prolonged demise?

On leaving the conference room, party administrator Verheugen was seen grimly carrying a bundle of papers. What were they? The last pre-election opinion polls that came in on election day and gave the FDP nine per cent of the vote.

Thomas Meyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 June 1978)

Marshall Plan: a grateful anniversary

Thirty years ago this month the Marshall Plan, aimed at helping Europe to recover from the ravages of World War Two, was launched.

These days we in this country often criticise our American allies. This anniversary gives us an opportunity of remembering with gratitude what they did for us in those dark days.

The plan was the brain-child of US State Secretary George C. Marshall and was signed by President Truman, a man whose name is hardly known to the youth of today.

This act put an end to an era of confrontation and heralded a period of cooperation. Even the Germans, America's former enemies, were included in this recovery and reconstruction programme.

Under the Marshall Plan, the USA sent food, raw materials, machines and medicines worth 13 billion dollars to Europe.

West Germany and Berlin received goods to the value of 1.5 billion dollars. In those days, that was the equivalent of DM6.3 billions in the world's hardest currency, for then the dollar dominated international finance.

The money was used to feed the hungry and to rebuild factories, homes and towns. Speaking of the late Nobel Prize-winner's "far-sighted idea," Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said that "it produced more benefits and blessings for the world than many another post-war concept."

The Marshall Plan also became the cornerstone of worldwide cooperation between West Europe and the United States.

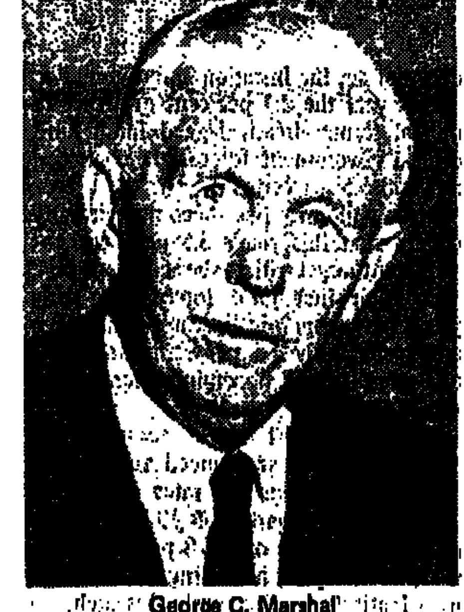
This cooperation continues today in such bodies as the European Economic Community, Nato, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and even in the United Nations.

It can justly be said that the Federal Republic of Germany made better use of this financial aid than many of its West European neighbours.

It invested its money so wisely in the form of low interest reconstruction loans that the European Recovery Programme administered by the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs now amounts to about DM12 billion.

This money is not all used for home purposes. A quarter of the European Recovery Programme money goes to the developing countries.

Thus the Federal Republic of Germany repays part of its debt of gratitude to the USA. (Kieler Nachrichten, 1 June 1978)



George C. Marshall (Photo: Interpress)

■ ECONOMY

March industrial figures encouraging – Emminger

Bundesbank president Otmar Emminger says the bank central council considers industrial production and orders in March encouraging.

Now the pundits are already figuring out that the chances of an average three per cent annual growth have improved, although this means that growth in the second half of the year would have to reach four per cent.

The Bundesbank president himself dampened his own optimism by saying that a correct assessment would need economic data for two more months — april and May.

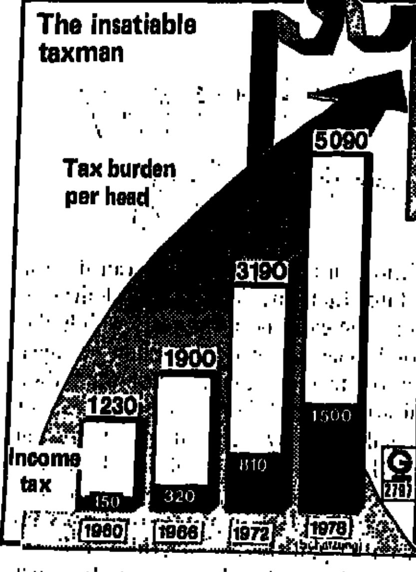
But since this information is usually slow in coming, it might be good to stick to the Economic Affairs Ministry assessment just released, which says the data for the first quarter provide no clear picture of economic development. It seems that Bonn, too, is adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Caution is also the advice of the German Savings Banks Association.

The banks hold that last autumn's tax relief package has not yet taken full effect. They are thus in agreement with *Herr Emminger, who feels that the government's economic booster shots are still to become effective.*

With regard to immediate action, the Savings Banks Association issued a warning and a recommendation.

It warned against short-term tax relief under the Stability Act — understandably, because it is a fact that our economic development is not ailing from a lack of consumer demand.



Private consumption rose by six per cent in the first quarter of 1978.

As a result, the savings banks' recommendation calls for better medium-term economic framework conditions through a reform of the tax system.

This includes the entire area of fiscal policy, urgently in need of review.

When obtaining the funds needed to finance spending, the state should act in such a way as not to undermine industry and willingness to work by penalising it. This applies to both individuals and businesses.

Every day politicians permit to pass without working on fiscal reforms is a day wasted.

The demotivation emanating from the tax system must not be underestimated and the savings banks' appeal for a reform deserves to be heeded.

The fact that neither economic booster shots nor tax reforms can start an upswing is another chapter entitled: "Does business have any faith in a long-term stable economic policy?"

Much of what was written in the chapter has just been deleted: the resolution of the Trade Union Confederation at its Hamburg congress to promote the nationalisation of key industries, banks and insurance companies (although revoked in the end) has certainly ended more economic growth impulses than a whole range of booster shots can start.

Dieter Feuser

(Nordwest Zeitung, 9 June 1978)

Tax system badly needs correction

It might be in order for the internal revenue department to skim off the cream in boom times, but that taxes should be milked with the same lustiness when the economy is in the doldrums gives rise to concern.

Despite some changes in the tax system, taxes are headed for new records — and so, unfortunately, is indebtedness.

Since you can eat your cake only once (although some groups suggest the opposite), a bigger slice for the state must curtail private activity.

And since only private initiative and investment can engender adequate growth, our national economy is strangling itself in direct proportion to the size of the slice taken by the state.

The government would be well advised to obtain a new estimate of tax revenues before fixing its spending for 1979.

Only then will it realise how much scope it has for the most urgent of corrections of the tax system. This also refutes the slogan of "tax gifts." The relief provided amounts to no more than the partial return of the excess taken.

Particularly urgent is a reform of income tax brackets.

The progression leap has affected wide segments of the public, putting them in a tax bracket formerly reserved for top earners.

The Ifo Institute is right when it says that such a reform should not be harnessed to the election campaign cart.

The federal government is reserving this carrot for 1980, although it is unlikely that it will be able to hold it back until then.

The FDP which, until shortly before the disastrous election results of 4 June, still advocated such tax reforms, should at last set a date.

It is also gratifying that the Ifo Institute says that forgoing tax revenues will, in the medium-term, bring increased revenues.

Taxes should, as a matter of principle, always be viewed dynamically.

(Die Welt, 6 June 1978)

State boosts 'still to take effect'

The fiscal and monetary impulses from the nine state economic promotion programmes since autum 1974 have — at least as far as the last two of 1977 are concerned — not yet taken effect, says Dr Helmut Schlesinger, board member of the Bundesbank.

He told the Central Neckar Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Baden-Württemberg Bankers' Association that expecting the programmes to induce an upswing according to previous models was not adivisable.

Following two stormy decades, he said, the German economy reached maturity in 1973-74 and entered an age of moderate growth.

But this was no reason for pessimism, although the economy could no longer be considered a locomotive of sustained growth at home and an engine giving growth impulses to other national economies.

Dr Schlesinger said that in the first post-war recession of 1966-67, economic policymakers aimed at "a custom-made upswing" which monetary experts initially supported strongly.

But eventually this turned into an outsize upswing with the attendant heavy price increases. The Bundesbank had learned its lesson and tried to avoid making similar mistakes.

Even so, the present expansion of the money supply was heavier than originally planned.

Dr Schlesinger, who spoke on foreign trade problems, said exchange rate fluctuations had adversely affected the competitiveness of the German economy and export growth rates were now roughly in step with world trade.

On the development of imports, Dr Schlesinger said German imports had grown disproportionately in relation to the domestic market and thus boosted the world economy.

This applied to 1976 and 1977, when German growth in real terms was 2.5 per cent, while imports rose at twice that rate.

Dr Schlesinger said the booster programmes were limited by budgetary deficits which would rise to DM60,000 million in 1978.

This was 4.75 per cent of GNP, exceeded only by the deficits of Japan and Italy among the industrial nations.

If deficit spending was taken too far, he said, Germany faced the danger of a setback — especially on the capital market — because a further increase of credits taken up by the state would lead to heavy competition in private demand for credit, still rising, especially in building mortgages.

In construction, where the capacity is *limited, there were already complaints* about a shortage of labour, increasingly long delivery periods and diminishing offers of tenders.

Wage increases totalling 11 per cent, together with other factors, made an increase in construction prices likely.

Dr Schlesinger said he was convinced the loss of confidence in the US dollar could be mended — and in fact was already being mended — after ten years in which the United States gave no priority to securing the value of its currency.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 June 1978)

May COL rise boosts hopes of stability

The May cost-of-living index in the Federal Republic of Germany rose by only 2.7 per cent, giving rise to hopes that the desirable two percent zone, achieved in April, can be stabilised for some time.

This makes the Federal Republic the industrial country with the lowest inflation rate after Switzerland. Only a year ago inflation still stood at 3.8 per cent.

But this gratifying development has its price. It is primarily due to continued low growth rates, giving rise to considerable concern.

An average one million unemployed annually, unused production capacities and sluggish investment activity are no climate for major price increases and put the brakes on growth.

But these factors should also ensure that accelerated growth, when it occurs, does not set the inflation sprial going.

Last year the 2.4 per cent growth rate in real terms already lagged far behind official government forecasts of between five and 5.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, it has become virtually certain that this year's 3.5 per cent government target will not be achieved.

In their first joint forecast for this year, the economic research institutes anticipated only 2.5 per cent growth — and even this is becoming increasingly doubtful.

A special report on the economic situation has been announced and is likely to show lower growth rates.

In the first quarter of 1978, Germany's GNP rose by only 0.8 per cent over the previous year, according to the German Institute for Economic Research.

The growth rate in the last quarter of 1977 was 1.8, in the third quarter 2.1 and in the second and first, 3.8 per cent, following 5.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1976.

This growth has diminished continuously.

This could not be halted although Bonn created additional demand through its seven booster programmes totalling DM35,000 million since 1974.

The limited success shows that the present near-stagnation has not only economic reasons. The disquieting thing about it is the continued reticence of investors.

This has many reasons, ranging from the dramatic appreciation of the deutschemark and its effect on export, all the way to a lack of faith by business in our economic policymakers.

Additional government booster programmes are unlikely to prove effective. It can only be hoped that the Bonn government, which will be exposed to heavy pressure from its partners at the July economic summit, will be able to resist the temptation of additional programmes.

Volker Wörl

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 June 1978)

■ MARKETING

Trend shows service key to small retailers' survival

The Edeka supermarket chain head office praises food retailer Arno Specht in Elberfeld, Wuppertal, as "an example worth emulating."

Despite tough competition all around his small 200 square metre supermarket, Herr Specht, who went into business in 1952, has not only held his own but increased his turnover.

In his immediate vicinity there is a butcher, a baker, another supermarket, two neighbourhood grocery stores, a discount store and — only 600 metres away — a 2,000 square metre department store.

"My recipe," says Herr Specht, "is not to get drawn into the vortex with department and discount stores and other cheap sellers. That would be deadly."

Instead Arno Specht stepped up his service — especially in fresh products.

He established a proper butchery in his shop and hired a trained butcher to run it.

Fruit and vegetables, which he initially sold packaged on a serve-yourself basis, are now sold with service.

Says Herr Specht: "The customer does not want packaged goods in shops of our size."

Finally, he set up what he calls a "shop within the shop", offering fresh bakery products, salads and cheeses.

In 1977, he upped his turnover by 12 per cent over the previous year.

Edeka, which recommends to its members that they emulate Arno Specht, has yet another example worth following up its sleeve: Berlin's Kaufhaus des Westens, the flagship of the Hertie concern.

The motto there is "trouble-free goods on a self-service basis and high quality fresh products with service."

According to the Edeka management, this is roughly the trend that will develop in German food stores.

It applies not only to the food sector, but to the retail trade in general.

For some time there has been a trend in favour of specialised stores.

Fritz Conzen, president of the German Retailers' Association, even goes so far as to speak of a "renaissance of the specialty shop."

Summing up last year's business, the Munich Ifo Institute said it was the major specialised chain stores which achieved conspicuously better results than their competitors with general lines.

Chain stores (with more than five branches) in the food sector achieved turnover increases of about ten per cent, textile chains achieving up to 15 per cent.

But small and medium speciality stores had it harder. According to the Munich Society for Consumption, Market and Sales Research (GfK), the discrepancy between the two types of business is primarily due to the difference in the range of stock.

The small operator, says the GfK, is in many cases unable to keep up in stock, price policy, advertising and market information.

Among the winners are also mail-order houses with a plus of 9.1 per cent, self-service department stores and discount stores with a gain of 10 per cent.

The losers, according to Ifo, are primarily conventional department stores.



Their turnover rose by only 2.1 per cent, putting them at the bottom of the list.

Germany's largest department store chain, Karstadt AG, achieved the best results with a turnover increase of six per cent (without Neckermann, the Frankfurt mail-order business recently taken over).

But after deduction of price increases and new floor areas, Karstadt actually found itself in the red.

"The decisive factor responsible for the generally unfavourable development in the department store sector," says Westdeutsche Landesbank in its investment tips, "was the trend on the part of consumers to go to specialised stores and to patronise discount houses."

Since the beginning of the present economic doldrums, which induced Germans to take their money to the savings bank rather than spend it, consumer attitudes have changed noticeably.

It was not mismanagement by the department stores nor was it particular efficiency by the specialised stores which triggered the change.

As a result, the National Association of the German Textile Trade warns against a wrong interpretation of this development. It says the better position of specialised stores was not so much due to more efficiency as to changed consumer attitudes.

The one side of the coin can best be summed up in the recent headline "Individuality Wish," in the trade magazine *Absatzwirtschaft.*

"The era of chasing after low prices," the magazine says, "has been succeeded by a new quality consciousness — not least because the cheap, anonymous goods do not meet expectations."

In a food trade magazine this new attitude was analysed by Volker Dölle, a sales promotion expert. He came up with a whole range of new consumer trends which the trade will have to take into account, among them the trend towards nature, health, more leisure time and information, better quality, more variety and specialities as well as towards novelties and innovations. All this adds up to a personalised style of consumption.

Polls among housewives by the Nielson Market Research Institute show that quality and freshness take priority over price: the customer is prepared to pay more for good quality.

The other side of the coin is that so-called "problem-free goods" such as sugar, flour and margarine are preferably bought as quickly and cheaply as possible.

A brochure called "The Self-Service Department Store" by Professor Thorismund Weller says: "Housewives are loath to unnecessarily waste available leisure time in shopping for the daily necessities. And exactly this provides an opportunity for self-service department stores and discount houses."

They are rapidly coming up as a way of buing food and other household requirements at discount rates.

Edeka even speaks of a "split market", saying: "These customers who buy their staples as cheaply as they can get them, forgoing any shopping confort, would like to buy their more expensive requirements in a pleasant atmosphere.

"They are looking for such things as atmosphere, top quality, freshness, large selection and friendliness."

This whole issue has meanwhile induced businessmen to take action. Business associations and company head offices are drawing their members' attention to the new market opportunities.

In its house magazine, Edeka says there is once more some movement in this branch of business.

Humbertus Tessar, spokesman for the German Retailers' Association, encourages members to be flexible and act: "There is no longer such a thing as a boom for a branch of business, there is only a boom for individual businesses."

And GfK chimes in: "There are no small and big retailers anymore, but only good and bad ones."

Businesses, be they large concerns or Papa-Mama stores — all want to be numbered among the good ones.

The Kaufhof management has recently gleefully said that its 1976 introduction of more profitable lines is proving clearly successful in 1978. And in this context more profitable means good quality and expensive.

Karstadt, whose management still steers by the proven department store concept, also wants to conquer what it terms "dynamic markets" to improve profits.

This dynamism, Karstadt feels, can be found in furniture, recreation and luxury clothing.

This means department stores are surging into the domain of specialist shops even more than before.

The new idea has had its effect even on rock-botton price self-service department stores and discount houses.

More and more of them are offering, apart from their usual lines, cherries, carrots and cutlets as in grandma's days: unpackaged and with service.

It is obvious that small specialised retailers are also taking advantage of the renaissance.

The Textile Retailers' Association has advised its members to offer customers what they want. There is much room for improvement both in service and goods.

The association, which also organises seminars and counselling sessions, even goes so far as to campaign for people to establish businesses.

Says its president: "It pays to become a retailer."

Gunhild Freese

(Die Zeit, 2 June 1978)

Bigger prints revolution in photo market

There is a revolution in progress on the photography market, says Rainer Heinze, 39, head of the Heinze group in Gelsenkirchen.

Wishful thinking or reality? "We are having a terrific success," says Herr Heinze.

What he is talking about is a new market idea developed by Heinze and former Porst manager Dieter Reiber and launched in March.

Under the name *Bilderland* (picture land), Herr Heinze is now offering a complete range of print sizes, including large formats. His strategy is based on a national consumer analysis that shows that 56 per cent of all photography buffs are interested in bigger and better colour prints.

Herr Reiber operates on the "trading-up" principle which induced 1,230 of 6,750 Heinze costumers (primarily camera stores) to get on the *Bilderland* bandwagon.

The Heinze group's share of brandname colour photographs in overall production rose — almost from one day to the next — to 30 per cent. Large prints *(Bilderland Super)* have already got a 20 per cent share.

Asked about the profit margin on brandname photographs, Herr Heinze, was evasive, though admitting that the trade obviously benefited from switching from anonymous brands to *Bilderland.*

The success can surely not be explained by this year's DM3 million advertising campaign alone. But the explanation could lie in Herr Heinze's remark: "After all, the photo market lives on pictures."

What he means is that prints provide the trade with more than half of its profits.

Rainer Heinze who, with his annual production of 250 million colour prints and a group turnover of DM142 million, numbers among the world's leading photo finishers, estimates that Germany's amateur photographers spent more than DM1,000 million on photographs last year.

This is 28 per cent of the total amateur photographic turnover (DM3,900 million).

Last year 1,300 million colour and 200 million black and white photographs were processed.

According to Herr Heinze, the 5,300 photographic equipment stores had a 47 per cent share in the amateur market, the 10,100 drug stores took nine per cent, the 1,400 outlets of Photo Quelle and Photo Porst 16 per cent, the 550 department stores and mail-order houses 14 per cent and the 1,900 discount stores seven per cent.

Herr Heinze is certain that the photo trade will capture a bigger market share in future.

He is not only the largest operator in this field in the Federal Republic (15 per cent market share, followed by VCW with 14 per cent) but also in Spain.

The Spanish venture came about when Herr Heinze's wife wanted to have a house in the south and he made this contingent on it also being used as a place of work.

The group today processes 65 million colour photographs in Spain, accounting for a turnover of DM35 million.

No other foreign venture are planned because others already have firm footholds in the likely places.

Werner Jaspert

(Die Welt, 3 June ...)

■ ENERGY

Carter policy steps up search for German uranium supplies

DIE WELT

Since President Carter's uranium encyclical West Germany has taken to hoping that its own uranium reserves might prove sufficient.

Will they? Could they, perhaps, bridge gaps in supply? Estimates vary between 2,500 and 15,000 tons and have usually been promptly denied.

The Baden-Württemberg Economic Affairs ministry reckons there are definitely 4,000 tons of uranium underneath the Black Forest.

These deposits are claimed to be equivalent to the energy potential of, say, Libya. By reprocessing fuel rods and using breeder reactors, this uranium potential could equal that of the country's proven coal reserves.

This forecast, however, is strictly in the realm of euphoria, since no-one knows exactly how much coal can be mined.

Since coal deposits are the country's major and safest energy reserves, it is surprising that there should be such doubt about the potential tonnage.

The 1970 mining industry annual refers to 70,000 million tons of anthracite. In 1971 an official figure of 286,000 million tons was mentioned at an EEC conference.

A coal industry survey in 1974 estimated that accessible reserves totalled 24,000 million tons, whereas another source reckons only 6,000 million tons can really be mined – unless further prospecting brings other seams and fields to light.

These tonnage estimates must all be taken seriously. They are merely based on different assumptions as to seam thicknesses and depths to which shafts can be extended.

Yet modern coal mining is based on a good century's experience, whereas uranium mining is an infant in comparison. So uranium estimates must be viewed with caution.

What is more, uranium is a commodity of political importance, which could mean that true estimates are substantially higher than the authorities are prepared to admit.

There is obviously more to energy policies than meets the eye.

Attention is centred on the Black Forest uranium field. In recent years uranium has increased eightfold in price, with the result that mining is now profitable even in fields where the yellow cake yield is a mere 0.1 to 0.5 per cent.

But it will be some time before uranium is mined in the Black Forest. Engineers are still at the prospecting stage. Yields of between 0.2 and 1.3 per cent are a particularly encouraging prospect near St Blasien and Baden-Baden.

Reserves near St Blasien – the Menzenschwand field – are estimated at 5,000 tons of yellow cake at least, which a further 1,000 tons or so are anticipated in Murgtal, near Baden-Baden.

Yellow cake is 75-per-cent enriched uranium oxide in sludge form, leached in the manner considered advisable in view of its carbonate content.

Prospecting is also going on in two other parts of Baden-Württemberg, one of which is on the outskirts of Baden-Baden, in another direction.

Baden-Baden, a fashionable spa, is most alarmed. Uranium mines on its doorstep are the last thing hoteliers and restaurateurs want.

The Menzenschwand field is also a problem, since it is in the middle of a nature reserve. Mining will have to be undertaken very carefully if nature lovers are not to raise a storm.

In the past the Land government has been more interested in prospecting than in mining. The authorities in Stuttgart regard the Black Forest fields more as a reserve for hard times.

Uranium prospectors are also out in force in Bavaria, Hesse and Lower Saxony. Uranium pitchblende deposits near Mackenheim in the Hesse part of the Odenwald forest are under close scrutiny.

Near Tirschenreuth, on the border between Bavaria and Czechoslovakia, prospectors are busy, while east of Brunswick, on the border with the GDR, the country's largest oil shale deposits are claimed also to contain uranium.

A few years ago there were plans to build an autobahn across this shale field. Scientists managed to dissuade the authorities, arguing that the 1,500 million tons of oil shale over an area of 41 square kilometres (16 square miles) can be refined into petrochemical products.

Even the leftovers can be converted into cement and fertiliser, they say, while the deposits also contain uranium and vanadium. A pilot project is shortly to be launched to see how profitable a full-scale venture might be.

With oil and uranium prices on the increase, open-cast mining could well yield a profit before long. But none of the other areas bears comparison with the Baden-Württemberg deposits.

Overall uranium deposits in the Federal Republic are estimated at 10,000 tons of so of yellow cake, of which a good half lies under the Black Forest.

The results of prospecting where uranium deposits are known to exist and the geological difficulties besetting further prospecting have brought hopes that reserves may prove larger than expected.

The number of companies prospecting is some indication of the importance attached to the search.

The longest-established prospector is Gewerkschaft Brunhilde, a mining company with concessions in the Black Forest and Bavaria.

Saarberg-Interplan holds concessions and permission to prospect in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, the Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saar.

Uranerzbergbau of Bonn and Urangesellschaft, two companies successfully engaged in uranium mining internationally, are also prospecting in Baden-Württemberg.

Lastly, Esso Erz GmbH holds uranium prospecting concessions in both Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

The Bonn government is investing substantial subsidies in uranium prospecting and research into processing the raw material, so the federal government is evidently also impressed by the potential of domestic uranium reserves.

Heinz Mostny

(Die Welt, 3 June 1978)

Cairo solar plant paves way for bigger projects

Egyptian newspapers attach immense importance to solar energy and the ten kilowatts generated from the German-built 600 square metres of solar cell collector panels will serve a double purpose, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

This solar power will both provide several hundred Egyptian peasants with electricity and power a deep-freeze plant for fish in far-off Aswan.

Neither of these is the really significant feature of the small-scale solar power station built by Dornier in the centre of Cairo and opened by Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff.

What really matters is that the power station represents a step in harnessing solar energy – the one resource that is not, inasmuch as anything is not, finite.

Solar power stations that do more than heat water or provide central heating are few. In the Pyrenees there is an experimental unit where temperatures of 4,000 degrees centigrade are generated, but strictly for research.

A solar power station in Santillario, near Genoa, generates nothing but steam. Its reflectors are kept on the move by an old tower clock to stay beamed at the sun.

A solar power station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is also used mainly for research, although it does generate a substantial five kilowatts.

Research into solar power generation has mainly been completed, however. The aim now is to develop units that can be assembly line manufactured and used to supply individual villages or entire regions with power.

The United States, for instance, plans to build a ten-megawatt solar power station in California. A German-Italian-French consortium is building a one-megawatt power station in Sicily with financial backing from the European Community.

Under the aegis of the International Energy Agency two 500-kilowatt solar power stations are to be built in Almeria, southern Spain.

Three designs are competing for market supremacy. In Almeria all three are to be tested to find the most efficient in identical conditions.

The first design is the solar farm on which a large number of collectors trap sunlight and convert it into 120-degree heat used to evaporate water, the steam powering a turbine.

The second, under construction in Almeria, is a solar tower. Reflectors beam the sunlight at a tower on which a receiver reaches temperatures of up to 500 degrees centigrade. This ultra-hot steam is fed to turbines.

The third method of converting sunlight into electric power is the principle used in outer space. Sunlight falls on crystalline silicium, one kilowatt of solar energy being converted into 100 watts of electric power.

Silicium cells are now at the stage where they can be manufactured on a large scale.

The cost per kilowatt-hour varies. Silicium cells appear most economical when only low power is required. In the medium range, solar farms seem best. Solar towers are likely to prove best suited when a megawatt or more is involved.

Yet even if conditions are perfect, power stations are mass-produced and last for 20 years, solar power will still cost more per kilowatt than conventional electric power, according to a survey by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm.

Solar energy remains interesting nonetheless because it is so versatile. Small solar farms can supply electric power to villages that would otherwise never be linked to the grid.

One 100-square-centimetre silicium collector generates enough power to pump 30 litres of water a day from a depth of 35 metres. Two square metres of collector panel and a car battery are enough to power a TV set.

The Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology is backing solar power station development to the hilt. Grants of DM500,000 in 1974 were stepped up to DM30 million last year.

On his recent visit to the Middle East, Volker Hauff was instrumental in securing the agreement of the Kuwait government, after negotiations lasting two years, to a contract to build a 100-kilowatt solar power station. His ministry has a DM300,000 stake in the design stage of the project.

The rich oil states are in a particularly good position to invest in the development of new techniques from which not only they but also the world's poorest countries will benefit, sharing similar climatic and geographical conditions.

This, of course, is also a drawback of solar power. Its conversion only makes sense where there is enough sunshine and open space.

Ideal conditions exist in the Sahara and Kalahari deserts, on the Arabian peninsula, in Australia and in the desert areas of North and South America.

Dry air is another prerequisite. If the air is too damp the sunlight is too diffuse and difficult to concentrate.

But Herr Hauff failed to bag the really big one – the partner with whom this country had hoped to boost development and subsequent export prospects.

Saudi Arabia was not interested in the joint planning and construction of a 20-megawatt solar power station, saying that it lacked the engineers and management for such a major project.

The ministry has not abandoned hope of long-term cooperation with Saudi Arabia on the most ambitious solar energy project so far.

Bonn is anxious to stake its claim for markets that will come into their own at the turn of the century. *Peter Jansen*

(Handelsblatt, 5 June 1978)

■ ECOLOGY

North Sea pollution killing off sea life say scientists

Frankfurter Rundschau

The North Sea is so contaminated by toxins that sea-birds and fish are dying in large numbers, experts claim.

Recent research indicates that the break-up of the tanker *Amoco Cadiz* off the coast of Brittany may make the situation even more alarming.

The toxin count is like a creeping poison. Oil catastrophes are not alone in jeopardising the survival of marine bird life and fish.

Gottfried Vauk of Helgoland observatory and Hans Lohse of the Bremen state chemical laboratory have concentrated on an analysis of the muscular tissue of birds and mammals that have died on or near the North Sea island lately.

One old seagull, for instance, was found to be saturated with PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, an industrial plastic. The PCB count in the bird's muscle tissue was over 0.3 per cent.

It had accumulated over the years and exceeded safety levels to an extent scientists have up to now thought impossible.

DDT may be nearly banned in Northern Europe, yet safety levels are exceeded by 200 per cent or so on Heligoland, not only in starlings and the great spotted woodpecker, but even in cats and mice.

As for seabirds, they exceeded the limit ten- to a hundredfold. The three-toed gull and the ice stormbird are particularly heavily contaminated.

These findings left little doubt in the scientists' minds that birds which are at the piscine end of the food cycle, feeding mainly on fish, run the gravest risk of contamination by DDT, chlorinated hydrocarbons and PCB.

The traces of these toxins in the sea may be minute, but they mount up in algae, shrimps and molluscs. Fish that live on a diet of these smaller creatures build up an even larger toxin count.

Fish-eating birds accumulate still larger amounts of toxin, with old birds being found to contain a dangerously high concentration.

Marine biologists Olav Giere and Olaf Pfannkuch of the Hamburg University department of zoology have investigated the havoc wrought by oil from the *Amoco Cadiz* off the cost of Brittany.

In their initial report they voice satisfaction that the French government refrained from using chemicals to keep the oil slick under control.

Pumping chemicals into the sea, they claim, merely amounts to a further strain on the food cycle of fish and marine bird life.

The Hamburg biologists are convinced that it will be a good five or ten years before the balance of organic life has been restored in the affected area.

Long-term damage to micro-fauna must be expected, while in the short term seabirds, snails, shellfish and sea-urchins seem sure to suffer serious depletion.

Marine animal life will undergo growth difficulties because there is less food to go round, while algae, which form such an important part of the marine ecology, have also suffered.

Marine flora and fauna, fish and birds, would suffer a similar fate if a tanker accident happened off the German coast, with specific damage occurring in the North Sea shallows.

The fishery research vessels *Victor Hensen* and *Solea* have done research off Heligoland and in the lower reaches of the Elbe.

Their brief was to fish scientifically in areas where waste is dumped at sea. The toxicological laboratory at the Institute of Coastal and Inland Fishery in Cuxhaven has summarised the findings so far.

The results are based on analysis of some 10,400 fish, all of which had clearly suffered from the sludge and effluent left by the manufacture of titanium dioxide.

Defects of the spine and similar deformities were the most common findings, but fish were also found to have open sores.

Between 0.8 and 1.9 per cent of the fish analysed had deformed or dislocated vertebral columns. Of 5,200 cod from the coastal waters of the German Bight 1.1 per cent were maimed.

Spinal deformities were also found among whitings, plaice, sprats, herring and mackerel, while other species were suffering from blood suffusion, closed and open sores and fin rot.

Up to 2.8 per cent of cod had blood suffusion, while in the titanium dioxide disposal area between 1.4 and three per cent of fish had sores, mostly near the base of their tails or on the outside of their gills.

Cormorants which frequent this part of the North Sea were much more prone to open sores than those elsewhere in the German Bight.

On oil pollution, the Institute of Coastal and Inland Fishery in Hamburg has drawn attention to a another research report.

Grey mullets were bred in two experimental ponds, first being allowed to grow unmolested in clear water for six months. Then four to five millilitres of petroleum per litre of water were poured into the ponds.

Six days later red spots or mild inflammation were observed on one or more mullet's fins. Bacteria taken from these sores indicated that the infection was external.

Eight weeks after the "oil leak" 96 per cent of the mullet in the two ponds were ill as a result of the relatively low level of contamination. *Lore Asmus*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 June 1978)

■ **PERFORMING ARTS**

Britten operas reward Frankfurt audience

The Scottish National Opera, now on tour in Europe, recently performed Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw* and the *Rape of Lucretia* at the Frankfurt Opera House.

In his memoirs, the composer and opera house director Rolf Liebermann combines high praise of the English composer Benjamin Britten with a violent attack on modern avantgarde composers.

"Britten never belonged to the avant garde, not even when it was fashionably to behave as if one did. He never for a moment tried to adapt his style to any contemporary movements. He was not worried about the super-modern fanatics and mockers who called him ridiculous, dusty and antiquated. He was not in the least interested in serial, post-serial and twelve tone music.

"He composed in his own way... I consider his simple, easily understandable and highly personal work to be that of a great composer, work of total and uncompromising honesty."

It is certainly correct to say that Benjamin Britten was at times underestimated, yet since his death a number of his works have good prospects of surviving

I am not sure whether *Lucretia* can be directed in a critical style – critical of a system of morality in which an aristocratic woman (the lower classes not taking matters so seriously) felt obliged to kill herself because she had been raped. This is in any case not the intention of director Anthony Besch.

He arranged scenes all finely sung by eight singers. At the end the princes of Rome want revenge but the two man chorus recommends Christian mercy. This is the philosophy from which Britten later developed his church operas, which are perhaps worthy of being revived and presented in our churches.

For those of us who are not very interested in the church, it all seemed remote even though we admired the technical expertise in this Britten's third opera after Paul Bunyan and Peter Grimes.

This expertise is even more evident in Britten's later work, *The Turn of the Screw.* The strange title has probably been responsible for it not being played often here. *Is it an opera about car workers on the production line?* The official title of the German version is *The Fallen Angels,* which suggests something like tales from a brothel.

In the informative programme the suggestion is made that the German title of the opera should be *Die Tortur,* which is the standard title of the translation of the Henry James shorty story on which the opera is based.

This complex and very English story is about two children exposed to the evil influence of two dead servants. The screw turns remorselessly until they are both dead.

Librettist Janny Piper has split the work up into a prologue and eight short scenes. Britten's music achieves intense effects with the simplest means. Thirteen musicians, five wind and five string, harp, piano and various drums (played by Caroline Garden) operate mainly as soloists.

However when they all do play together (conducted by Roderick Brydon), they create the impression of an entire orchestra. Melody and harmony are never monotonous. When describing the weird and mysterious, Britten even abandons the tonal system without flinging himself into Schönbergian seriality.

Stage designer John Stoddart, who did the sets for both works, makes maximum use of projection, which makes for quicker changes of scene. His decorations are as sparse as the music itself



Scene from Benjamin Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* performed by the Scottish National Opera in Frankfurt. (Photo: Städtische Bühnen Frankfurt)

and even on a hot summer evening they manage to convey the impression of a fog-bound English country house.

Director Anthony Besch simply has to form the seven actors into new groups. They all (Britten only uses tenors and sopranos to create an atmosphere of unreality) sing very well, though young William Irvine deserves special mention. German opera houses would have difficulties finding anyone to sing the difficult child's part as well.

It is a good thing that guest performances bring us works which would otherwise not or only rarely be performed on our stages. Despite the heat and competition from World Cup football on television, the attendance was respectable. The British colony helped to bolster the number of Rhein-Main opera lovers who do not shrink from unusual works.

Horst Köpke

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 June 1978)

Stuttgart Ballet season full of creativity

The Stuttgart Ballet, soon off on long tours to Paris and London, can look back on a season of intense creativity. Its three latest productions were world premieres of works by Patrice Montagnon, Kenneth Macmillan and William Forsythe, which means the company has produced ten new works this season.

The three new works were presented together. Montagnon and Forsythe are two of Stuttgart's leading young choreographers, and Kenneth Macmillan, who worked with Cranko for many years, is one of the few grand masters of choreography. The contrast paid off. The two young choreographers work on the highest professional level and need not fear competition.

Although Montagnon calls his soloists Lucia Montagnon and Egon Madsen *The Girl* and *A Man like Schubert,* his choreography of Schubert's violin quartet in D minor *Death and the Girl* is basically a ballet concertante, lively and flowing but not quite capturing the mood of the music, lacking the final conviction of pure choreographic theatre.

This may well have something to do with the poor quality of the two dance quartets. In the long run, a lower quality of dancing must not be the price paid for the impressive array of new works presented at Stuttgart.

Kenneth Macmillan's new work *My Brother, My Sisters,* with orchestral music by Schönberg and Webern is strangely fascinating. We see children playing wild and boisterous games in a graveyard; youthful innocence that hardly knows spring's awakening and has no idea of the death which lurks beneath their feet until one of them is snatched from their midst. The main parts are danced by Richard Cragun and Birgit Keil.

Forsythe's *Dream of Galileo* at first sight appears to be a costume piece, at second sight magnificent theatre, and even at third it still does not seem to be ballet.

The music is Penderecki's First Symphony. Forsythe designed the costumes himself. He presents the church and state as rigid in comparison with Galileo and his moving planets that bring the people to the verge of revolution. Reid Anderson is superb as Galileo, the theatre images of brilliant simplicity: a work that ranks with Bejart in quality.

Reinhard Beuth

(Kieler Nachrichten, 2 June 1978)

Münster holds international play festival

Theatre companies from several countries performed their works in a small amphitheatre at the recent Münster Theatre Festival.

Many directors these days are irked by the limitations conventional theatres place on their work and look for new places to put on their works.

The characteristic of the proscenium stage is that it emphases the distance between audience and actors. This is hardly satisfactory for plays which seek to involve the audience directly.

Directors striving for this effect have looked back to the origins of theatre, the play amid a circle of spectators, the Greek arena theatre of circular wooden seats around an open stage. This later took the form of the stone amphitheatre.

The host company from Münster presented the first performance, a new version of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream,* directed by Sam Besekow of Copenhagen. His idea of decorating the walls of the Münster *Kleines Haus* with leaves as if to make the audience part of the landscape was rejected by the theatre authorities. This, coupled with a vague directorial concept and weaknesses in the acting, meant that the magical world of Puck and his elves was too mundane.

The *Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus* presented Jahnn's *Thomas Chatterton.* Michael Gruner, director and set designer, divided the central stage into areas and, by lighting techniques, moved from one scene to the next. This work could probably have been performed equally effectively on a conventional proscenium stage.

This could not be said on *Toneelgroep Baal* from Amsterdam, which presented the opera *Orpheus* by Lodewijk de Boer and Lous Andriessen on the third night of the festival. This is a rock opera which takes great liberties with the classical original. Adapting Alice Schwarzer, it presents man's self-esteem as being dependent on his domination over women and depends on confronting the public with the brutal reality of the finally voiceless and unmanned Orpheus.

The performance best adapted to the proscenium stage came from the *Centre International de Créations Théâtrales,* with Peter Brooks directing his *Ubu* on the way to the Berlin Theatre Festival. The performance of Turgenev's *Month in the Country,* directed by Adam Hanuszkiewicz, was also impressive. On stage a real lawn, a pond, a cherry tree and dogs. Between them the actors in bright pastel tones in this comedy of the vicissitudes of the emotions.

The Royal Exchange Theatre Company from Manchester, directed by Michael Elliott, performed Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment.* The staging was similar to that of the *Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus.* The lights lead us from one scene to the next. The grim story of the student Raskolnikow was packed into two hours on the stage, no easy task, but all in all a success.

A number of very different performances which all go to show that the arena theatre is a challenge to theatre management and directors. It could be fatal to shrink from it and far more plays than generally assumed could be staged in this way. There is no fixed frame and so the imagination has more scope.

Uwe Gerke

(Die Welt, 2 June 1978)

■ **ART**

Essen exhibition holds the riches of Egypt

An exhibition of priceless Egyptian sculptures, reliefs and artistic instruments is on show at Villa Hügel in Essen until September 17, when it will move on to Rotterdam, Munich and Hildesheim.

The exhibition can be regarded as a follow-up to the Tutenkhamen exhibition held in Berlin, Munich, Vienna and other central European cities a few years ago. It contains examples of Amarna art such as seen in the earlier exhibition, as well as work from the Graeco-Ptolemaic and Roman periods.

Most of the 175 objects on display come from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, but there are also works from German collections and from neighbouring countries.

Because the number of objects on display is limited, it is easy for the visitor to get a good overall impression of the works. If one judges what one sees spontaneously and without preconceptions, two apparently contradictory conclusions follow.

On the one hand, one is amazed to find how stable and consistent the tradition of depicting kings and other hierarchic figures and symbols was for over two thousand years. Despite the difference in time, the standing figure of Ajtema from the fifth dynasty (about 2400 BC) and the statue of Nespectashuti from the 26th dynasty have a great deal in common, as they do with the depiction of Mark Antony as a pharaoh with curly Roman hair under the severe Egyptian headgear.

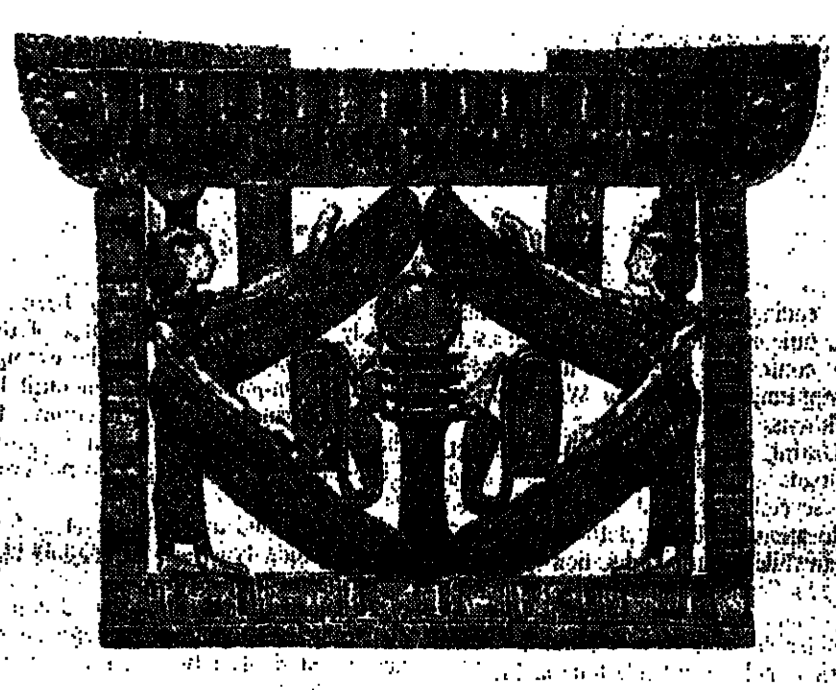
The strange thing is that the visitor does not find this loyalty to cultural and religious traditions at all boring, monotonous or even mannered. This is because over a 2,000-year period there is a constant movement between archetypal early styles, balanced high styles and refined and finally rigidifying late styles.

This applies to the phase of the Ancient Empire (from about 2600 to about 2000 BC) with its magnificent group statues, the statue of Mycerinos (fourth dynasty) and the family group of the so-called Masons' Leader (fifth dynasty), all with their graceful and exalted facial expressions and attitudes, as much as to the epochs of the Middle Empire (2000 to 1600 BC) and of the New Empire (1554 to 1080 BC) and its twilight.

The emergence of the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans means that the traditions and styles of the North Mediterranean area slowly replaced the age-old traditions of the Nile.

The Western observer of this tradition which persisted quietly throughout millenia is of course most interested in the changes, innovations and originality of variations from the long-respected norms. It is therefore hardly surprising that the 18th dynasty, which ranges from the still, exalted work of the Thutmosis kings through the individualising tendencies of the first Amenophis kings to the Amarna Revolution with the first monotheistic religion, has an important place. Here we find an unfinished but very even head of Nefertiti from Amarna, a charming miniature of a daughter of Ekhnation, the gilded wooden chair of Princess Satamun, the death ornaments and two subtle statuettes of Tutenkhamen and one of his Ushbetis (death-servants).

Hetherto Egyptian civilisation has been taken to mean the achievements up to the Rameses kings and up to the 22nd dynasty that is, up to the time of foreign rule. The Gods and Pharaohs exhibition in Essen also does justice to the intensive cultural development after this period when Egypt was under the control of Alexander, then Mark Antony and Hadrian.



Tutenkhamen exhibit from Thebes in the Valley of the Kings on display at Villa Hügel, Essen (Photo: Katalog)

Apart from the figure of Mark Antony mentioned, there is a wonderfully preserved white marble sculpture of Cleopatra showing her natural nobility. This is one of the jewels of the exhibition. It was bought by the Prussian State Museum in 1976 and this is the first time it has been on public display.

All in all this exhibition is well worth a visit. Its organiser, Dietrich Wildung, says it contains more riches than are at present on display in Egyptian museums.

Klaus Golberg

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 June 1978)

Royal collection shows Chinese art treasures

King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden (1882-1973) was the first name in the guestbook of the Cologne Museum of Oriental Art when it was opened in 1973. The museum is now holding a special exhibition in which part of the King's Chinese collection, which totals 1,500 pieces, is on show.

One hundred and fifty objects from three millenia are on show in two exhibition rooms, designed for special exhibitions. The collection, chosen by Bo Gyllensvärd, director of the Stockholm Oriental Museum, has been shown in a number of foreign countries since 1956, but this is the first time it is to be seen in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Crown prince Gustaf studied archaeology and the history of art. In 1907 he bought an 18th century famille rose dish, the first piece in his collection. At first he concentrated on archaeological pieces, mainly bronzes, helped by a railway engineer who discovered 600 pieces while working on the Chinese railways. Then he extended his interest to earlier periods. The exhibition shows Chinese history, culture, religion and art from the stone age to the 18th century.

The crown prince not only collected, he also did scientific work. In 1926 he made his only journey to China and a large photograph in the exhibition shows him on a dig. He organised exhibitions, congresses on the history of art and laid the basis for the Oriental Museum's collection with the 600 bronzes bought from the railway engineer.

When the king died in 1973, the museum took over the entire collection. A special gallery to house it is to be built soon.

The exhibition shows the immense range of Chinese art from simple stone vessels to bronzes made in complicated founding methods, lacquered work, small animal figures of jade and ornately carved rhinoceros vessels. Most of the works are simple and timeless, the tea bowls with their thin walls, for example, often spur modern potters to attempt to emulate them.

Porcelain vessels were produced in China during the Tang period from 618 to 906, 1,000 years before they were made in Europe. During the Sung period from 960 to 1279 the porcelain vessels used tend to be more monochrome. The seladon varnish makes them look like jade.

Susanne Kreitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 June 1978)

Hannah Höch, Dadaist, dies at 88

Hannah Höch, the painter and co-founder of Berlin Dada, has died in her adopted home city of Berlin at the age of 88. She was born in Gotha and was one of the first to use photomontage.

Her reputation in the art world is now very high, but asked why she was only discovered in the 1950s, many years after her fellow Dadaists, Hannah Höch answered that this relative neglect suited her and conformed to her wishes.

Twenty-four of her works were shown at the *Tendenzen der Zwanziger Jahre* (Trends of the 1920s) exhibition in Berlin last year, which meant she was among the best represented of all the artists of the 1920s.

Höch was not impressed by this or other forms of success. Despite poor sight she worked on. Her desk, which took up almost an entire room, was full of notes, designs, brushes, tools and letters. Her diary was full of visits and engagements.

Though the press was anxious to interview and photograph her, she had to ration her appearances for health reasons. Her nimble steps had become a little unsure in recent years as she went though the garden to the gate of her house in Heiligensee on the outskirts of Berlin to welcome guests.

Wearing trousers and with her snow white hair cut short, she would go back through her garden picking up fallen fruit, looking at flowers, always ready to tell a story of some little miracle in her garden.

No doubt the tales are legion because this huge and wild garden was her safe refuge from the Nazis in 1939. The giant cacti that dwarfed her frail figure and dominated the living room in winter like giant totems were put out in the summer among blooming phlox, sunflowers, hibiscuses, apples and quince trees.

Her labyrinthine little house was full of pictures, reliefs, books, documents, posters from her exhibitions and piles of magazines, the sources of her collages and photomontages. And everywhere you looked plants and flowers, dried and living, ancient bark and stones, exotic legumes, each one a tiny world in itself.

Although her work is to be found in books, magazines, brochures and catalogues from all over the world, Hannah Höch always used to say that she only played a modest part in the Dada movement and that it was enough for her that her works were accepted.

Her photomontages are full of critical irony. Sarcastic, at times playful, they combine things that apparently do not belong together. In this she was very different from her male fellow Dadaists such as Grosz and Heartfield, whose photomontages and paintings were aggressive revelations of contemporary society.

Hannah Höch wanted to express her criticism through the medium of art. In this she had much in common with the painter and writer Kurt Schwitters from Hanover.

"There was always an affinity between us," she said. They visited rubbish tips together and went looking for objects in the woods. In 1922 and 1925 she built "grottoes" for Schwitters' Merz-Bau.

Hannah Höch went on working after the Dada movement had died out. In her continual experiments with styles and modes of expression, whether photomontage, collage, painting, photography or graphics, she remained true to Dadaist principles of freedom. When seeing people off, she would move nimbly down the stairs and I will not forget her quick energetic movements as she made bouquets for us to take away. I could not help thinking of the words of Raoul Haussmann, her close friend: "Dada is a way of life, more a form of inner mobility than an art movement."

Barbara Dieterich

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 June 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Tenth school year debate still raging furiously

Leading Social Democrats and trade unionists are adding their voices to the controversy over a tenth year of compulsory education for West German childrens.

During May Day rallies in Frankfurt, Cologne and Hanover, local union leaders severely criticised what they called "educational fallacies of the first order". Meanwhile Bonn Education Minister Jürgen Schmude announced the "most important education policy decision of the decade" and Hesse's Prime Minister Börner spoke of a "milestone in the history of education policy."

But students, parents and teachers are unable to find their way through the maze created by the reform of the transition from the lower secondary level of education to the system of vocational training and not only since the famous "shortcomings report" on education was published.

From Land to Land, and even within Länder, there are parallel and cross-purpose debates on the merits of a tenth general education year of compulsory schooling, a year of basic vocational education, an elementary vocational school year or career training courses organised by the Federal Labour Office.

The educational policies of the CDU and SPD/FDP-governed Länder have not always been so heterogeneous. In 1972, state Prime Ministers were essentially agreed in the coordinating body known as Bund-Länder-Kommission, BLK, (Federation-Länder-Commission): the tenth general education school year for all was to be introduced gradually; and basic qualification for a working life was planned to be provided by a subsequent eleventh basic vocational training year.

Under the impact of the teacher shortage, now in its fifth year, and youth unemployment the tenth school year issue is increasingly developing into a short-term educational corrective measure for the state of the labour market.

But this hampers rather than promotes a substantial reform of school years seven to ten, with transition facilities to all types of secondary schooling.

The Amendment of the Hesse School Administration and Compulsory Schooling Act of March 1978 exemplifies this development.

As of this autumn, students who cannot find an apprenticeship or a job must spend another year at school, usually doing a "career preparation year" or a "basic vocational year" at a vocational school. There is also the option of an *additional year of general education in a secondary school* or a Labour Office training course.

Hauptschule (lower secondary school) students with bad grades or without a graduation are to spend the tenth compulsory year in special preparation classes at vocational schools.

Educational policymakers in Wiesbaden and school authorities say nothing about the curricula and qualification aims of this type of additional school year (as the State Education Office puts it: "We don't know what will be confronting us").

Vocational school teachers and educational social workers receive no special training for working with young people educationally at a disadvantage.

Evidence that no systematic integration in vocational education has been seriously planned is that graduates of the "career preparation year" can be exempted from compulsory education until 18 if they file an application. According to the latest ministerial blueprint in some CDU-governed Länder, they do not even have to give a reason.

For weak student groups such as foreigners, *students at special schools and* congraduated *Hauptschule* students, this extension of the schooling period is paradoxically tantamount to an erosion of guaranteed rights (attendance at a vocational school).

The protests of union representatives who say that the lawmakers have "yielded to pressure from employers aimed at providing industry with cheap and available unskilled labour" (Hans Preiss of the Metalworkers' Union) is justified but misses the mark.

In accordance with the "Programme for the realisation of urgent measures to reduce young people's employment risks", the BLK now wants to introduce special forms of education along the lines of the Hesse career preparation year and the Bavarian year of basic vocational training for young workers.

In the school year 1976/77, these special vocational training classes were attended by 18,600 youngsters, mainly graduates of *Hauptschule* or special schools.

The BLK anticipates that 44,000 places for this training will be available by 1982.

Generally, this development indicates a new kind of schooling and extended compulsory education which has nothing in common with the tenth compulsory year of schooling issue of the early 70s.

Instead of providing the apprenticeship and labour market with suitable people by means of a longer and better



Another year at school: educational fallacy or education milestone?
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

basic education, the market now has to be relieved of excess and unsuitable workers. The school has become a parking lot for labour.

The schooling developments in the United States and the effects of this pointless extended compulsory schooling on those concerned make it clear what the consequences could be in the Federal Republic: destruction of the last vestiges of educational motivation in early youth, school apathy and aggression against an enforced education which fails to achieve its objective of providing a transition to a vocational future.

The attachment of the tenth school year to the *Hauptschule*, still talked of in Hesse and other SPD/FDP-governed Länder in 1977, is no longer mentioned.

Despite a clear tendency in the past two years towards making the tenth school year part of general vocational training, Social Democratic Education Ministers like Krollmann in Hesse and Jürgen Girgensohn in Northrhine-Westphalia stress their open-mindedness on the institutionalised attachment of the tenth year to the *Hauptschule*, pointing to experiments with a voluntary tenth *Hauptschule* year.

But this tenth school year presupposes the successful conclusion of the ninth grade, which means only good students will be privileged to receive systematic and general career training.

Particularly disadvantaged *Hauptschule* and special school schudents (in metropolitan areas more than 25 per cent of *Hauptschule* students fail to gratuate) would again be faced with a blind alley, repeating the process in which the wheat is separated from the chaff, as Helmut Goos, formerly an advisor on the so-called Model Project 10 in Lower Saxony, puts it.

Lower Saxony has had much experience in the past few years with a voluntary tenth year of *Hauptschule* (4,800 graduates in the school year 1976-77). These experiments again show the basic dilemma of current educational policy: in view of the social hierarchy and inequality which the school system does nothing to eliminate, learning in the voluntary tenth school year is again linked to selective mechanisms. Thus performance pressure and seemingly "lucky winners" and "failures" (Goos's words) were common in Lower Saxony, as

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Call for more teaching on totalitarian past

KielerNachrichten

Polls show that while most West German secondary schobl pupils are familiar with terms such as "oppression," "repression", "defamation", "inhumanity" and "genocide", they do not relate them to the Third Reich.

For many pupils the name Hitler means nothing. They did not experience the Nazi era and have only hearsay knowledge of its violence and iniquity.

It seems scholls have largely omitted to deal with the subject and to provide a link between our present and the recent past.

Pointing to their almost ten-year-old resolutions on the teaching of history, the Länder Education Ministers have now called on teachers to devote attention to totalitarianism in everday school work.

But the appeals are unlikely to bring results. The teachers — or at least most of them — are not responsible for their pupils' ignorance on these matters, and the pupils cannot be accused of a pronounced lack of interest in the period from 1933 to 1945.

It is extremely difficult to develop a framework in which to teach about such a brief period in which so many unspeakable atrocities occurred.

After all, many of our contemporaries — whether involved in the Third Reich or not — are still unable to understand how a country traditionally devoted to humanism could have committed these atrocities. And without a clear concept our teachers, above all the post-war generation, are helpless.

A teachers is at a complete loss when questioned by his pupils if he has no fixed point of reference.

History as a subject has largely been eliminated or devalued in favour of subjects relating to the present.

Efforts to restore to history its former importance have so far failed. And without history National Socialism remains a meteorite that came to earth from nowhere, thus making questions as to its causes irrelevant. Without an historical framework the generation of today has no reference point.

When educational reforms were initially implemented the past was considered useless ballast. The idea was that the only history taught should be of our century.

The subject of the Nazi dictatorship suffered from this attitude because all efforts and objectives were concentrated on the present and the future, and it was considered reactionary to apply historical criteria.

But there are still teachers who, in their determination to work towards changing the system through the school, view history simply as a continuity of oppression.

The logical consequence of this attitude is that in some Länder an awareness of conflict has become the central theme of education.

But most teachers do not want to pave the way for a new system, wishing instead to convey the knowledge that will enable our youth to evaluate present and past events. And it is these teachers who today feel abandoned.

Realising what our secondary school pupils of today consider "repressive" it becomes obvious that they, too, feel abandonod. The thinking in terms of

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■ MEDICINE

'Noise sickness' now tops industrial ailment list

It has been known for some time that noise can cause illness, but up to now measures to reduce noise have been low on the list of priorities for the protection of the environment. Liesel Hartenstein, a Bundestag MP and member of the SPD working party on the environment, argues the case for tougher noise pollution measures.

Noise is a waste product of modern technological civilisation. For many years, amid the euphoria of technological progress, it was considered a nuisance but accepted.

It was not realised how dangerous it could be. Noise can make people physically as well as psychically ill. Among the complaints it causes are lack of concentration, overtasking of the nervous system, heart and circulatory illnesses, chronic insomnia, increased susceptibility to illness and high blood pressure. And these are just some of the diseases and illness medical research has shown to be caused by prolonged exposure to noise.

It is alarming that the most obvious and at the same time irreversible organic illness, deafness of varying degrees caused by noise, is now at the top of the list of industrial diseases. More than 12,000 cases a year are recorded.

Of all the kinds of noise — from building sites, at work, aeroplanes and road traffic — traffic noise seems to be the worst. Eighty per cent of those who complain of exposure to excessive noise give traffic as the main cause.

For far too long we built and widened roads, designed them on the level of second and third storeys, "tidied up" through roads (that is cut down rows of trees and concreted over front gardens to create race tracks) and all without thinking of protection against noise.

The sins and errors of the past are now gradually being realised but the damage is difficult to repair. The creation of the humane town in which people not cars have right of way is going to be a difficult but worthwhile task in the next decades.

Forty-five per cent of the population believe that protection against noise is more important than building new roads. Thirty per cent attach so much importance to anti-noise measures that they want the tax on oil raised to pay for the building of roads and anti-noise measures.

Seventy-five per cent of the population either give absolute priority to anti-noise measures or else attach so much importance to them that they are prepared to make financial sacrifices to lower the noise level.

This means the majority of people in this country realise that road traffic noise simply cannot be allowed to grow. They are not prepared to go on tolerating the effects on their health and general well-being. Politicians would do well to take note.

The Air Noise Act of 1971 made a modest start towards reducing the ear-splitting din of jet aircraft. Up to now the Act has not gone beyond timid area planning moves and meagre compensation for those affected.

A far more effective and decisive move in the fight against jet aircraft noise was the reduction of noise at source in the aircraft engines. At the 1969 ICAO conference on aircraft noise, agreement was reached on binding noise limits for certain types of aircraft. In autumn of last year these levels were tightened up.

The reduction at source must be the priority in the fight against car noise. There are already makers who have reduced the engine noise of their buses by up to 10 decibels, a 50 per cent drop, by putting a capsule around the motor. The same could be done with lorries and cars.

EEC directives lay down maximum noise levels for various kinds of vehicles (to be improved by 1980), but for a country as densely populated as this they are far too high. The noise of some vehicles is not far short of that of a medium-sized jet.

A draft Act is now to be introduced on road anti-noise measures. However, there is a danger that it will worsen rather than improve the situation. In residential areas the levels envisaged for new roads (65 decibels during the day, 55 decibels at night) mean people would have to put up with double and quadruple present levels.

On existing roads the limit of 75 decibels is very near the maximum allowed noise protection zone one near airports.

This means that noise would be "legalised" at an intolerably high level. It is no exaggeration to say we are well on the way to "legally" producing sick people. It is vital that the law should not allow the medically acceptable noise levels to be overstepped.

"The fight against noise is decisive for overall environmental policy" wrote the experts who produced the 1978 Environment Report. There is nothing to be added.

We should however clear up the false argument that we have to choose between better protection of the environment or jobs. It is well-known that the sophistication of construction technology means road building is capital rather than labour-intensive, whereas environmental measures such as installing soundproof windows and walls are highly labour-intensive and create new jobs.

Something has to be done about noise. It is not good enough to simply accept the intolerable. It would be dangerous to disappoint the people's expectations over this. They are more aware of the problem than many suspect.

Liesel Hartenstein

(Vorwärts, 1 June 1978)

Teaching call

Continued from page 12

conflict that has been foisted upon them makes them assume a stance of opposition towards everything. The result is a break with historic ties.

To view oppression only as oppression by a ruling class provides nothing to hold on to in life. Pupils have also been educated to think of the future only in terms of a splendid quality of life.

Now they fear that this rosy future is no longer guaranteed. What then is to make them interested in a phenomenon like Nazism and people like Hitler or Stalin or repressive regimes in general?

But even of these are dealt with adequately in the classroom, they are still meaningless without being bedded in history — a light that appears for a brief 12 years of schooling only to be extinguished.

It is neither romanticism nor conservatism that makes some teachers and parents insist on a thorough grounding in history. Any kind of progress can only be explained on the basis of tradition and measured by the past.

The reticence of some teachers to add to the existing conflict between the generations by depicting the Nazi regime out of its historical context is due to the fear that this might give rise to further aggression — and this is perfectly understandable.

Teachers must be better equipped if they are to present a subject as laden with emotions as the Nazi era; and this requires, above all, familiarity with history.

Before appealing to teachers, Education Ministers should examine their own failings.

Walter Beck

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 May 1978)

Colon cancer mass tests made possible

About 30,000 people a year are diagnosed as having cancer of the colon in West Germany every year and 20,000 die of it.

This means malignant tumours of the colon are among the most frequent forms of cancer of the inner organs. The incidence of this form of cancer is increasing in industrialised countries and there are a number of theories on the causes.

One thesis is that it has to do with people's eating habits. In developed countries food contains large amounts of fat and protein and not enough roughage.

It has recently been proven that there is a definite connection between the frequency of cancer of the colon and the consumption of large amounts of fatty food with insufficient roughage.

It has also been demonstrated that bile acid which gets into the colon is broken down by certain bacteria into desochycholic acid, a carcinogenous substance. Everyone has these bacteria in their intestines but it has been shown that those whose food contains a high fat element have disporoportionately more. It has also been shown that a diet with plenty of roughage helps reduce bile acid.

To sum up the results of this research: in industrialised countries, food contains large amounts of fat, the number of bacteria that break down bile acid is high and the carcinogenous content of faeces is high. Lack of roughage means small stool and a long passage through the intestines. There is permanent contact between the carcinogenous substance and the inner walls of the intestines, which is the cause of the high tumour rate.

In developing countries, food has a low fat content, the number of bacteria which break down bile acid is correspondingly low and there are fewer carcinogenous substances. The larger amounts of roughage mean that the stool passes in larger amounts more quickly through the intestines. The carcinogenous substances are only in short contact with the intestine walls and tumours are therefore rare.

The chances of cure and survival depend on the stage at which the disease is diagnosed.

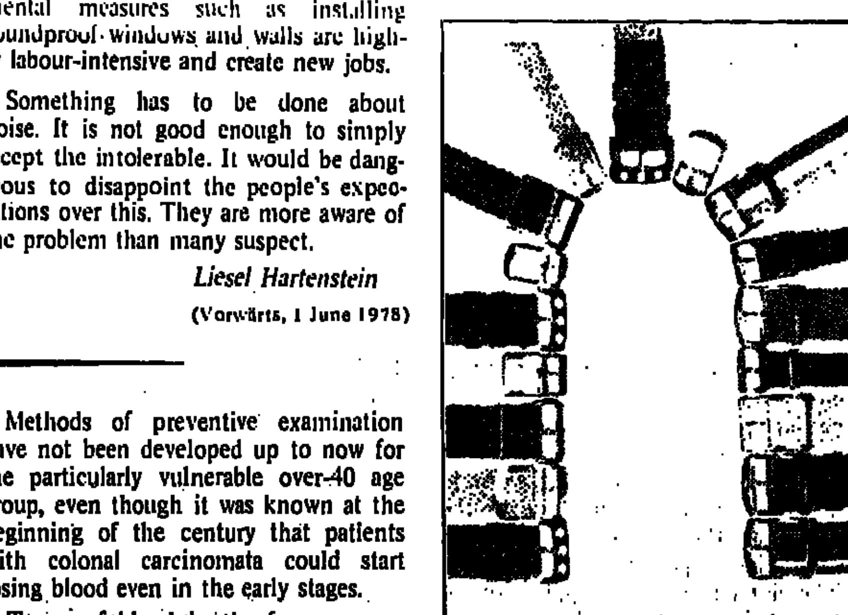
Methods of preventive examination have not been developed up to now for the particularly vulnerable over-40 age group, even though it was known at the beginning of the century that patients with colonal carcinomata could start losing blood even in the early stages.

Traces of blood in the faeces are an important indication of cancer of the colon. Since January 1977 the modified Guajak test has been included on the list of preventive examinations for men and women over 45.

The test was first brought on to the market under the name of Haemoccult-Test by the company Röhm-Pharma, Darmstadt. Recently Boehringer of Mannheim brought out a similar test under the name "haemo FEC". These tests mean mass examinations can now be performed in a short time.

The observation period for the tests has been too short for definite statements. They detect not only carcinomata but also a certain number of polyps, the removal of which is the equivalent of a form of cancer prophylaxis. Systematic use of these tests would probably not only improve the chances of curing the disease but also lead to a reduction of the carcinoma rate.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 May 1978)



SOCIETY

Asian nurses fight for right to residence

Because of their friendliness and dedication, Korean, Indian and Philippino nurses are liked by everybody. In the early 1960s they were recruited in their home countries because German hospitals were short of staff. Now, with the rise of unemployment, they have been put under pressure to leave the country which has become a second home for many of them.

The *German Hospital Society and* Caritas have called on Bonn and the Land governments to extend the contracts of Asian nurses and to abstain from inflicting personal and social hardship or curtailing their career opportunities.

The friendly smiles of the Asian nurses are deceptive because they live in fear and uncertainty.

In the early 60s they were recruited and welcome because of the shortage of nursing staff in West Germany.

Today we no longer depend on them because there are enough Germans to do the work, and so they are forced to go home once their contracts expire and their residence permits are no longer renewed.

The 16,000 girls from Korea, India and the Philippines had a hard time getting used to life in this country, and no-one was interested in how they coped with new conditions of life and work. Even they did not imagine how hard it would be to adapt — but they came, hoping to find a better life.

They learned German and did all they could to become part of our society. But the initial period was full of hardship for most of them because they were ill-prepared for life in Germany.

Residence permits were issued for initial periods of between three and five years. In the beginning it was a mere formality getting an extension because the gentle Asians were sorely needed.

All this changed when jobs and training places became scarce.

According to the Aliens Act, "residence permits may be issued if the presence of the foreigner is not harmful to the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany." But many officials seem to feel that it is always harmful to the interests of this country if foreigners settle for longer periods, says Caritas.

The difference in the application of the regulations in various Länder shows that there are ways of sparing the Asian nurses deportation proceedings.

In West Berlin, for instance, all Korean nurses are permitted to stay following a decree by the Senator of Public Health.

Lower Saxony's Interior Minister Rötger Gross (FDP) has instructed the state's alien registration departments to extend residence permits even in the case of prolonged unemployment.

According to the Hospital Association, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg are particularly strict.

In Bavaria, the number of Korean nurses' fell from 1,044 in early 1975 to 436 by the end of 1977, Caritas estimates.

"After all, nobody was forced to come here," say the authorities.

Many of the young Asians tried everything they could to escape deportation. They tried to get adopted by Germans or moved to another Land — mostly to no avail. The citizenship of adoptive parents can only be passed on to minors; and as to moving to another state, there is a central file on aliens, enabling the authorities to see at a glance where the person has come from and what sort of job was held.

The only way of escaping deportation is to marry a German — but only a few of the girls succeded.



Asian nurses recruited in the 1960s working in a hospital in the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: Conti-Press)

Today there are still about 12,000 Asian nurses in West Germany.

In some Länder the situation has eased somewhat and nurses no longer have to give up their jobs in favour of Germans if their work is satisfactory.

Even so, a nurse losing her job must leave the country at the latest after six months, in some instances with an additional three months' grace.

The Indian girls — some 4,000 were recruited — cannot expect to find a job in Kerala, where most of them come from, because of unemployment.

This applies particularly to the girls who received their nursing training in West Germany. This training is not recognised in India because it does not include midwifery, tropical medicine and several other aspects.

Additional training in India — the prerequisite for a registered nurse — costs more money than the girls have because the bulk of their earnings go home to help their families.

But even with additional training, there is little hope of employment because there are vitually no vacancies.

Those who are married (60 to 70 per cent) see their only chance in using the money they have earned to secure a livelihood for themselves and their families by buying a piece of land or starting a small business.

Single women hope that their parents will be able to arrange a marriage for them. In such a case, the future husband's social position — regardless of whether he has a job or not — depends on the wife's dowry. The less a nurse has been able to save in Germany, the slimmer her chances of finding a livelihood at home.

Conditions for the Philippino nurses — about 3,500 — are similar. Though their chances of a job at home are better, salaries are much lower.

For the Korean girls, too, the situation at home is pretty hopeless. Jobs are scarce because the public health system is developed only in the big cities and more and more nurses are being trained.

German training is not held in very high esteem because it is considerably shorter and less comprehensive.

And in the medically underdeveloped areas, where vacancies might exist, salaries are minimal and working conditions so tough as to be a deterrent.

Caritas sees one posibility of providing Asian nurses returning home with work in the formation of "Action Groups" for voluntary operations in the Asian home countries. It is hoped that this will open up new fields in which it should later be possible to employ full-time nurses.

The Bonn Government and various church organisations are prepared to support the project within the framework of development aid if the Korean authorities guarantee to bear the follow-up costs. But no guarantees have yet been received.

Karin Jordt

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 June 1978)

Bonn calls for new line on nurses' permits

Extensions of residence permits for Asian nurses — particularly Koreans — are to be handled more generously by Land authorities following a recommendation by the Bonn Interior Ministry.

Lower Saxony's Interior Minister Rötger Gross said: "The public owes a particular gratitude to these foreigners whom we brought to this country when we were faced with an emergency in the nursing sector."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 May 1978)

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extensive polls among students demonstrated.

In Baden-Württemberg the Rhineland-Palatinate and in Hamburg it is becoming obvious that Hauptschule students with a tenth grade pass are at a disadvantage compared with *Realschule* graduates over apprenticeships.

If the tenth school year is not to prove a dead end, as the ninth year did in the 60s, we must have a uniform and binding regulation for all students.

Extension of compulsory schooling as an educational parking lot and intensified selection in the *Hauptschule* will aggravate rather than improve the problems of integrating *Hauptschule* and special school students in the training and work process.

Hans-Joachim Petzold

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 June 1978)

Project helps young to find career paths

A youth assistance organisation in Freiburg has started a project to help young people make careers for themselves.

The scheme provides 15- to 25-year-olds with a "promotion period" under expert guidance. The objective of this usually one-year basic training is to familiarise young people with the working world, to strengthen their self-confidence and to provide them with apprenticeships.

The social security network is too wide-meshed in times of youth unemployment to provide security for young people at a disadvantage over employment opportunities. They find even the lowest rung of the career ladder hard to negotiate.

As a rule, these young people lack confidence, they have failed at school and, in some instances, in attempts to begin a working life. Frequently they have a police record. As a result, they do not benefit from government efforts to offset overcrowded universities and shortage of apprenticeships through promotion programmes.

High school graduates are given precedence for apprenticeships over those who have only completed compulsory schooling, forcing the latter to accept unskilled work.

A Freiburg judge reactivated the Youth Assistance Organisation, started 30 years ago to help those who would otherwise have no chance of finding satisfying work.

An old factory has been converted for the new project. The young people themselves, under expert guidance, helped with the work, enabling the first group to start training last February.

The group consists of seven young people who are trained in such basic skills as the handling of wood and metal.

The training is in several phases, starting with motivation, which is to engender pleasure in a task, followed by work that will provide a feeling of achievement while steering towards a specific trade.

The head of the recreation arm of the Youth Assistance Organisation says practical training is to begin shortly. This is intended to be done in cooperation with small companies because large industrial concerns would be too impersonal.

The first group of seven will be joined by another after the summer holidays.

Whether this experiment will be followed elsewhere depends on the success of the Freiburg model.

Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 May 1978)

SPORT

Just how much training can athletes take?

Does the future of athletics lie in frightening visions of discus and javelin throwers and shot-putters with shoulder muscles looming over their heads?

Are long-distance runners to consist of little more than an enormous pair of lungs from which legs sprout, legs which could be artificially lengthened for specialists in the high jump, long jump, triple jump and pole vault?

Athletics derives its attraction from records ever faster, further and higher. World records have been kept for 65 years, yet no-one has thought of putting them out to graze now they have reached retirement age.

The conventional view is that decathlon specialists and long-distance runners put in training which is nothing short of punitive, a schedule to which a newcomer can only grow accustomed by a lengthy process of renunciation of the pleasures of everyday life.

This widespread assumption is far from the truth, which is that long-distance runners would not change places with anyone. In comparison with the training schedule of a shot-put specialist, they feel they live a life of ease.

Decathlon specialists, on the other hand, have training schedules no less exacting than that of the long-legged high-jumpers whom no-one would expect to be made of such stern stuff.

As for the difference between the sexes, there is apparently nothing to choose between the two when it comes to training routines.

Eva Wilms, the Munich shot-put and pentathlon record-holder, puts in a dozen training sessions a week, and her routine is no less exacting than those of her male counterparts.

In the morning she trains for up to an hour, in the evening for up to two. "She has to keep up the pace," says coach Christian Gehrmann.

Her weekly schedule also includes massage (twice) and an hour-and-a-half to two hours' rest at lunchtime. It is a schedule which is essential and observed by everyone in her branch of field athletics.

As a rule athletes who aspire to international rank have to spend up to three hours a day training.

Greg Joy, the Canadian high jump silver medallist at Montreal, is an exception. He trains six hours a day and claims to have had no time to study the precision mechanics of take-off.

This country's Wolfgang Killing makes do with three hours. So does Carlo Thränhardt.

Wolfgang Bergmann, who coaches Guido Kratschmer, Olympic silver medallist in the decathlon, reckons ten training sessions a week are essential, although the athlete only need train flat out for two-and-a-half hours at most.

Anyone who oversteps this mark will pay the price, Bergmann says. But it is not a matter of murder in ten parts. The athlete who trains too much will merely be more accident-prone.

Throwers, jumpers and runners are all technicians. Their drawback is that they are dependent on continual supervision by their coaches. Their training is also usually limited to a regular venue.

Annegret Richter, the 100 metres Olympic gold medallist from Dortmund



Eva Wilms: dozen sessions a week (Photo: Sven Simon)

in the Ruhr, still manages her ten to twelve training sessions a week. But when coach Wolfgang Thiele is not there, half of them are a waste of time, she says.

Middle- and long-distance runners are best off. They are not only always in demand at major athletics meetings but also almost certain to see the world.

When the weather gets too chilly at home they can train in any piece of woodland or open space anywhere in the world. Off they go to warmer climes, and when they return their form does not drop. Quite the reverse.

"When I think how hard middle-distance specialist Thomas Wessinghage trains," says long-distance runner Karl Fleschen, "I know it is a far more exacting schedule than mine."

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 June 1978)

Hofmeister sprints into last season

Franz-Peter Hofmeister seems set to run the 400 metres in 45 seconds with the same regularity he showed last season.

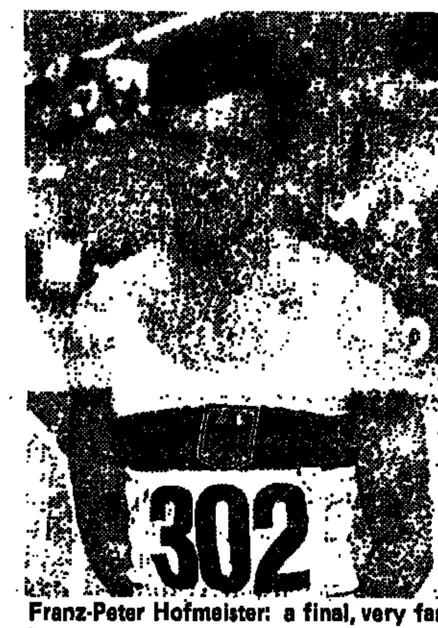
His 45.81 seconds at Hanover certainly looked like the first of a series, especially as it was cold and not the weather in which a sprinter cares to fully extend himself.

Hofmeister at last seems to have reached his ambition (after failing with such regularity in 1976) to run his chosen distance in under 46 seconds.

He has taken two seasons to break the psychological barrier but now seems unperturbed by his former bugbear. He is now capable of running flat out for an entire lap that often enough ends in near-agony.

Hofmeister is certainly back in the top rank in the 400 metres, back where he was from 1971 to 1974, when he won silver in the 200 metres at the European championships.

But in Hanover he announced his retirement at the end of this season. "My



Franz-Peter Hofmeister: a final, very fast lap (Photo: Sven Simon)

job must have priority," he said. Since January he has been a trainee manager with Bayer, the Leverkusen chemicals manufacturer.

"I am allowed time off for competitive events but it is hard work," he says. At Leverkusen it is hinted that he could get time off during the week if he asked, but Hofmeister, 26, has no plans to do so.

The European championships in Prague will be his last major meeting, and since 1970 he has not returned empty-handed from a single tournament of this kind.

His trophies include two silver medals at European championships, two Olympic bronze medals and two gold medals at the 1970 European junior championships.

This time he fancies his prospects of a gold medal in the 4x400 metres relay. "And the way I am running at the moment I could well improve in the 400 metres individual event."

Franz-Peter Hofmeister, whose last season this is, is one of his country's most highly-regarded amateur athletes. The way in which he has reconciled sport and his career is exemplary.

It also shows that even at the top amateur athletes need not be shamateurs to earn respect and acknowledgement. He can look back on an immaculate career.

Robert Hartmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 31 May 1978)



Ulrike Meyfarth: from run and jump to think and jump (Photo: Horstmüller)

Ulrike Meyfarth makes a comeback – at 22

Does the name Ulrike Meyfarth mean anything? Yes, it seems like ages since the 16-year-old Cologne schoolgirl won Olympic gold at Munich. Is she a has-been at 22?

Six years ago she was an unsuspecting teenager and an unknown among the world's high-jumping elite. But she excelled on the day and was the darling of the Olympic crowds in Munich.

After that she only once equalled her Olympic record, and at Montreal she foiled in the qualifying rounds.

Last summer she was dogged by poor form, only entering for the high-jump at nine meetings and only once clearing even 1.83 metres (six feet).

Was one of her teachers right in asking her, after the 1972 Olympics: "Why are you carrying on with sport? You can hardly improve on an Olympic gold."

Then the comment made her hopping mad, but as time went by it looked as though her anger was going to prove impotent.

Now, at long last, confidence is returning. On 21 May at 10am and in chilly 10 degrees centigrade she cleared 1.86 metres (6ft 1¼in) on a wet and slippery synthetic track in Hanover. Finally she had succeeded in outjumping Brigitte Holzapfel of Leverkusen, who won a silver medal at the European indoor championships.

"Ulrike feels she stands a chance again," says her new coach Gerd Osenberg, with whom she has been preparing a comeback since last winter.

She broke with her increasingly distant past and changed clubs, from ASV Cologne to TuS 04 Leverkusen. A new environment, fresh faces, new ideas were what she needed — plus the challenge of belonging to the same club as Brigitte Holzapfel.

But their training schedules never cross. Ulrike was willing to start from scratch. "When I started with Osenberg as my coach it was not long before I no longer knew where I was," she says.

"We rejigged my entire technique. It's been real fun."

For probably the first time Ulrike Meyfarth began to go more deeply into what had previously been a hobby: the high jump.

"Now I start by working out how I am going to set about the jump. In the past I just started my run-up and jumped."

The two worked day after day. Coach Gerd Osenberg must have seen Ulrike as a particularly worthwhile challenge. It may be recalled that he coached Olympic star Heide Rosendahl.

It was hard work but Ulrike can now afford to look interviewers in the face and say with satisfaction: "I was fat."

She is now 1.87 metres (6ft 1½in) tall and weighs in at roughly 70 kg (154 lb), which ought to enable her to stay airborne for just that little bit longer.

What about the Moscow Olympics? Her answer is only natural for an athlete who has been way, way below form for two seasons. "I'm not even thinking in terms of Moscow yet."

Robert Hartmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 June 1978)